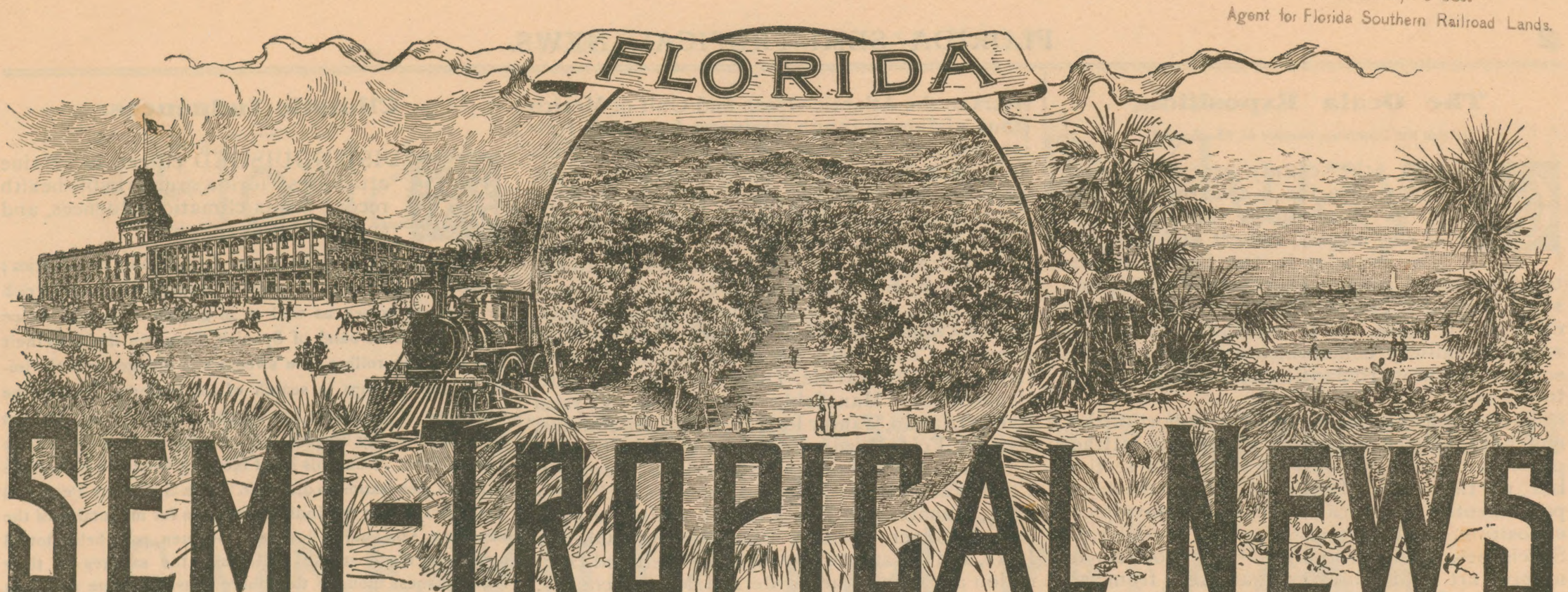
J. N. Livingston,
Real Estate,
Ocala, Fla.
Agent for Florida Southern Railroad Lands.



SEMI-TROPICAL NEWS

Vol. 1. No. 1. Ocala, Florida, January, 1889. Price, 5 Cents.

The "Florida International and Semi-Tropical Exposition."

This Exposition, incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida, will open at

OCALA, MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA,

JANUARY 15TH, AND CLOSE MAY 1ST, 1889.

This will be a permanent Exhibition of Pomological, Horticultural and Agricultural products of Florida, with its soils, timbers and live-stock; together with articles of general interest from all States and Countries We have forty acres of land contiguous to the City of Ocala. All railroads have connections to the grounds, and every facility is afforded to visitors. The main building is 300 feet front by 150 feet in depth, and the entire premises will be supplied with pure artesian water, electric lights, steam power, etc. We invite exhibits of all descriptions from the United States, particularly those pertaining to the Arts, Mechanics and Agriculture.

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J. N. Livingston,
Real Estate,
Ocala, Fla.
Agent for Florida Southern Railroad Lands

The Ocala Exposition.

[From the December number of *The South.*]

OCALA, the county seat of Marion county, Florida, is awaking to a sense of its possibilities. Marion is one of the largest, richest and most fertile counties in the State. It contains the finest orange groves in Florida, and ships annually twenty-eight per cent. of the crop of the State. Is is centrally located, has excellent railway communication, and contains some of the most romantic and attractive points in Florida.

The citizens of Ocala see their opportunities, and have started a project which will attract public attention not only to their own section but to the entire State. It is to establish permanently an international and semi-tropical exposition, including a display of Florida Specialties, with an array of the products of nature, art and industry, gathered from all parts of the world. A conspicuous feature will be made of home industries around Ocala, and the visitor will see that Marion, with its splendid record in the production of oranges, is a fine farming country, where corn, oats, cane, tobacco and hay, besides fruits and vegetables, may be raised. The live stock exhibit, which will be made a prominent item, will show how fine a class of animals may be reared, with proper attention to breeding, and, therefore, what an opening Marion presents to the breeders of horses, horned cattle, sheep, hogs, etc.

The project has advanced far towards completion. An Exposition company has been incorporated under the laws of the State, funds have been liberally subscribed, a site of forty acres has been donated for the site, the buildings are in rapid progress, and by January 15th, the Exposition will be formally opened.

OCALA has in and around it a number of wealthy men whose co-operation in the scheme is a promise of success. The board of directors includes the managers of *four* of the chief railroads of Florida, the presidents of two prominent banks, and one of the largest wholesale merchants in the State. The managers of the railway companies are joining heartily in the effort, and with the cordial support promised by all the UNION invited, a grand display will be secured. It will show not only to the world what Florida *can do*, but to the home dwellers what they may accomplish by diversifying their products and profiting by their many advantages.

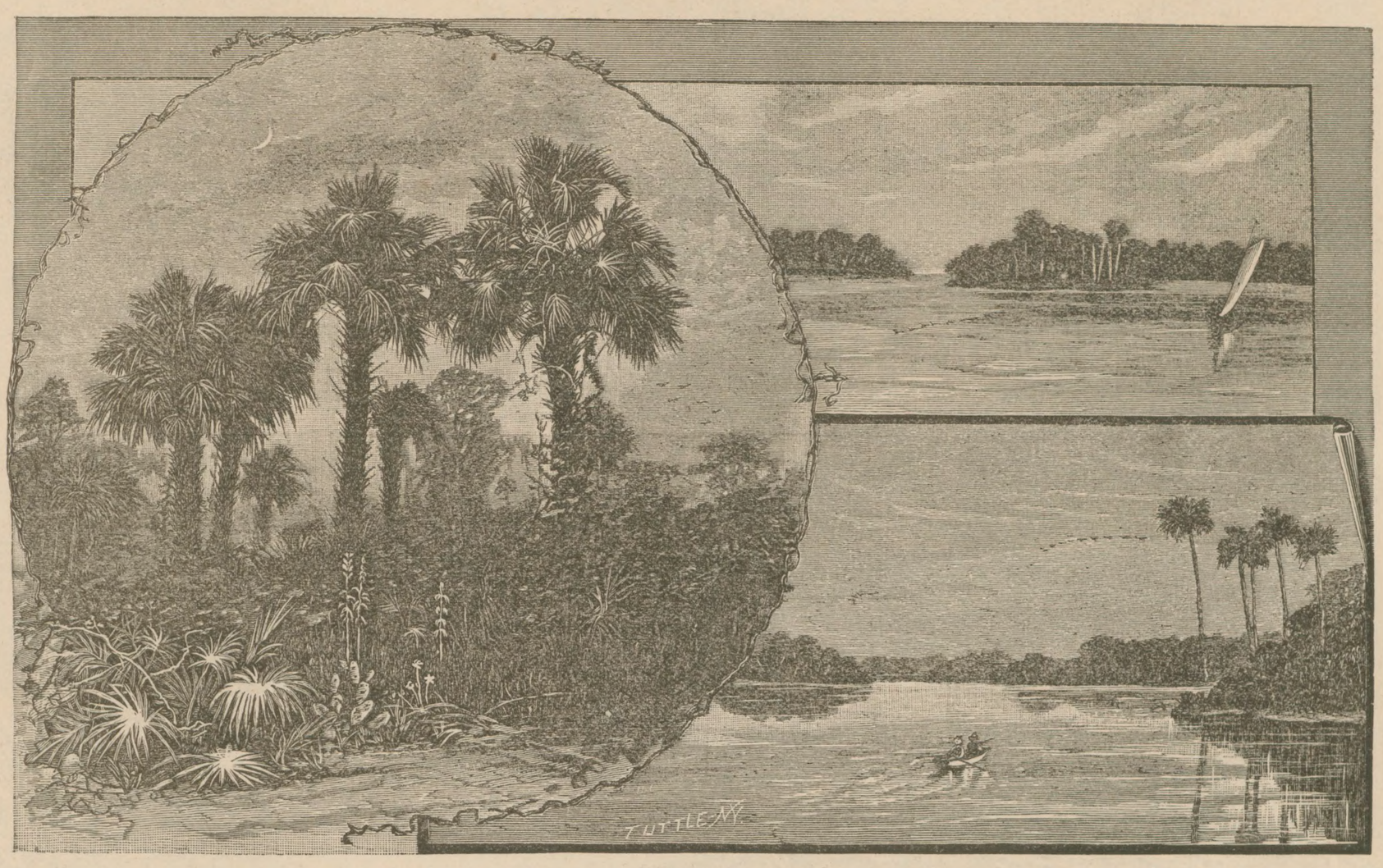
This Exposition, incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida, will open at OCALA, Marion county, Florida, January 15th, 1889. This will be an exposition of pomological, horticultural and agricultural products of Florida, and her soils, timbers, woods, minerals and live stock, and in addition articles and products of general interest from all States and countries. Entry is open to the world for the display of their products.

Ocala is located in the centre of Marion county, in the centre of the Peninsula, and is the centre of the finest and richest portion of Florida. Nine-tenths of all the oranges, lemons and vegetables grown in Florida are produced within a radius of eighty miles of OCALA.

The object of this Exposition is to induce travel and immigration to a section of Florida that has heretofore been comparatively ignored, though in quantity and quality of rich, high rolling hammock, mixed and pine lands, particularly adapted to *successful* agricultural and horticultural purposes, it has no equal; while for beautiful scenery, numerous clear water lakes teeming with fish and fowl, romantic rivers to the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico (thus giving thorough drainage from this rolling section), and wonderful navigable rivers of iridescent colors, it acknowledges no rival, while its salubrity of climate, and uniform good health, requires no encomiums at our hands. All this section is within one to four hours' ride of Ocala, and embraces the cities and towns of Palatka, St. Augustine, De Land, Jacksonville, Lake City, Fernandina, Indian river, Starke, Gainesville, Waldo, Green Cove Springs, Bronson, Cedar Keys, Leesburg, Eustis, Tavares, Belleview, Brooksville, Dade City, Sumterville, Panasoffkee, Mansfield, Homosassa, Crystal river, Orlando, Winter Park, Sanford, Kissimmee, Bartow, Fort Meade, Fort Myers, Fort Ogden, Tampa, Tarpon Springs, Sutherland, Duneden, Clear Water Harbor, Disston, Pinellas, St. Petersburg, Manatee and Punta Gorda, while the celebrated Silver Springs, Blue Springs, Orange Lake, and its famous groves, Lake Weir and Dunnellon are within the borders of Marion county.

The EXPOSITION is located on forty acres of land contiguous to the city of Ocala, and all railroads are connected with the grounds. The main building is 300 feet front, 150 feet in depth and fifty-three feet high. The entire premises will be supplied with pure artesian water, electric lights, steam power, and ample accommodations for all exhibits.

We invite exhibits of all descriptions, particularly those pertaining to the arts, mechanics and agriculture, guaranteeing uniform courtesy to all exhibitors.



TYPICAL FLORIDA SCENES ON THE HOMOSASSA RIVER.

The city of Ocala contains 6,000 inhabitants, has four completed railroads, paved streets and sidewalks, modern brick buildings, fine schools, electric lights, water-works, fire and police departments, public markets and elegant hotels. The "Ocala," brick, 229 rooms; "Montezuma," brick, 90 rooms; "Alfred," "Magnolia," "Central," "Steele," "Florida," and other hotels and boarding-houses, afford good and ample accommodations at reasonable prices, for all our guests.

For eighty miles around trade is tributary to Ocala, and her yearly sales are nearly five millions of dollars. Ocala has two national banks, twelve churches, four newspapers, one ice factory, three saw and planing mills, one machine shop, five livery stables, six restaurants, twenty-four hotels and boarding-houses, one music house, three cigar factories, nineteen lawyers, three doctors, three hardware stores, four drug stores, one book store, one seed store, blacksmiths, tinners, plumbers, fruiterers, shoe, harness and wagon makers, bakeries, and about sixty dry goods, general merchandise and grocery stores; two brass bands and two crack military companies, two building and loan associations, and lodges of various secret and benevolent orders.

The entire section of Florida mentioned in this paper will fully repay the tourist with new and beautiful scenery, and will certainly convince the immigrant and capitalist that the half of Florida's intrinsic worth has not been made known, and that her *possibilities* cannot be measured.

Climatic Influences.

A DISTINGUISHED citizen of Maine attributes Florida's remarkable health record to its climatic influences, and speaks of it as follows:

"Florida has ever been the fabled land of America; around no portion of the new world linger legends so rich in silver promises, as well as in golden realities. Since Ponce de Leon's band of Spanish Cavaliers threaded their way over the rolling pine sweeps and plunged into the impenetrable swamps in search of the Spring of Youth, the eager eye of the world has sought in this land of cerulean skies and balmy breezes for some great blessing to the human race. What this great blessing would be was left to our own generation to discover. The Spring of Perpetual Youth had drawn the Indians from the far mountains of the interior to this land of flowers. Old men, past their allotted age, were made strong again, and the savages in their ingeniousness thought that there must be some spring in which they dipped to be rejuvenated, and they wandered ever in search of this spring of promise. When De Leon and his followers landed on these beautiful shores all could tell of the efficacy of the spring, but none could point out its definite locality. He and his followers, like the Indians, found, and knew not that the search was ended; 'twas no spring that they searched for; there were no waters in which their limbs must be dipped to revive youth; the Spring of Youth was everywhere; it was the balmy air that they drew in with each breath. The Indians, drawn with rheumatism, or racked with coughs from exposure in the bleak woods of the North, came to this land of sunshine, and in the warmth and purity of its atmosphere regained health and hardiness. Over almost the same trails by which these children of the forest fled from the cruel winters of the North, to-day thousands of our people of the North pass each winter to Florida, to regain the bloom to their hectic cheeks and to restore strength to their weakened lungs.

BEAR in mind the meeting of the National Pomological Association at Ocala, Feb. 20th to 22d.

THE Semi-Tropical Exposition will present attractions superior to any exhibition ever held in the South.

FEB. 22d is the military day at the Exposition.

THE "Indian Summer" of the Middle and more Northern States closely resembles a Florida winter, and will convey a better idea than can be written of a season which in Florida admits of life in the open air, while citizens of the North are hovering over great fires or shivering in heavy wraps, as the rude blasts of winter cut to the bone. The fact that the thermometer rarely falls below 32° fits our section as a grand sanitarium for the whole country.

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE, who spends her winters in Florida, says: "The situation of Florida, surrounded by the sea, and the free sweep of winds across it, temper the air, and blow away malarial gases. There may be malaria along the St. John's in summer, as there is along the Connecticut in the North; but in winter there is no malaria in Florida."

THE wonderful natural attractions of interior Florida, such as Silver Springs, Blue Springs, Crystal river, and the huntsman's paradise, Homosassa—with numerous deep rushing rivers—all lie within an hour's ride of the Semi-Tropical Exposition.

THE air is pure and healthy, as it comes sweeping across the tempered Gulf of Mexico, laden with the salt or iodine, which is nature's remedy for the lungs, impure blood and overtaxed nervous system.

ON Feb. 20th, 21st, and 22nd, $800 in cash premiums will be given by the Semi-Tropical Exposition. Apply to secretary for premium list.

THE climate of Central and Southwestern Florida is especially suited to silk culture.

Ship your oranges and vegetables, and buy your seeds of G. W. Shallcross & Co., New York.

Florida Southern Railway

(ORANGE BELT ROUTE)

DOUBLE DAILY TRAINS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS CONNECTING WITH FAST MAIL TRAINS AT GAINESVILLE and PALATKA.

THE FLORIDA SOUTHERN RAILWAY extends from Palatka on the St. John's River directly west across the Peninsula to Gainesville, 50 miles.

At Rochelle, 40 miles west of Palatka, it extends directly south through the most fertile and hilly portion of the State to Punta Gorda, on Charlotte Harbor, 300 miles distant, the most southern point reached by rail in the United States.

At Leesburg, its St. John's and Lake Eustis Division permeates the garden spot of the State, watered by the great Ocklawaha Lakes, Eustis, Harris, Griffin and Dora, and again taps the St. John's River at Astor.

During almost its entire length it traverses a fertile, high and rolling country, adapted to all kinds of agricultural pursuits, and especially productive in vegetables and oranges. Along its line are the largest and finest Orange Groves in the State, and the scenery is frequently broken by

BEAUTIFUL AND PICTURESQUE LAKES.

At Interlachen, McMeekin, Ocala, Welshton, South Lake Weir, Conant, Lady Lake, Chetwynd, Leesburg, Okahumpka, Center Hill, Pemberton, Brooksville, Astor, Eustis, Tavares, Bartow, Fort Meade, Arcadin, Fort Ogden and Punta Gorda will be found

Fine Hotels and Ample Accommodations for the Tourist and the Invalid.

At Punta Gorda particularly the Hotel is strictly first-class for the tourist who desires to while away time, with all the comforts of a metropolis surrounding him.

FOR THE INVALID there is a perfect winter climate and a sanitarium unsurpassed anywhere.

FOR THE SPORTSMAN the **shooting** is good, and the **fishing** not equaled in any native waters.

S. CONANT, Gen Manager. S. C. BOYLSTON, G. P. Agent. J. A. LARNERD, Supt.

FLORIDA SEMI-TROPICAL NEWS.

OCALA, FLA.

FLORIDA SEMI-TROPICAL NEWS CO.

PUBLISHERS.

Entered in the Post Office at Ocala as Second-class matter.

Subscription Rates, - 50c. per Annum.

RATES FOR ADVERTISING FURNISHED ON APPLICATION.

ADDRESS ALL LETTERS TO THIS PAPER.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Circulation 50,000 Copies.

JANUARY, 1889.

A Guarantee.

To Whom it may concern:

We hereby certify that we have printed, bound and delivered 100,000 copies of this publication for January and February, 1889.

GILES LITHO. & LIBERTY PRINTING CO.,

62 College Place, New York.

Salutatory.

With this number of the FLORIDA SEMI-TROPICAL NEWS, we begin the issue of a paper to be devoted to the development of the noble and rich State of FLORIDA, and to the FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL AND SEMI-TROPICAL EXPOSITION of OCALA.

We intend our journal to be energetic, pushing and a live paper. We will *eschew* politics, and our aim is progress, and success. We know the past history of Florida; we know its present; and we look forward with bright and glorious hopes for its future.

The greatness of Florida enhances the greatness of the whole of the United States, as all States east of the Rockies are tributary to Florida.

Our paper speaks for itself, as far as its literary and typographical appearance is concerned. Our issue of the first number, a New Year's present to our readers, both at home and abroad, is fifty thousand (50,000) copies, which is duly *authenticated* by the certificate of our printers, Giles Litho. & Liberty Printing Co., 62 College Place, New York.

Florida.

World renowned Florida! What memories this incomparable peninsula brings to the minds of our readers, who have visited this *more* than Italy of the American continent? To know Florida, is to love it as the land of promise and the home of health. Italy is a *great* country, but she has her mountain winds, and extremely hot summers. California is *greater* but also has her drawbacks in the want of rain and changeable climate. Florida is GREATEST, as it combines ALL of the advantages of Italy and California, with none of their disadvantages.

Florida is a peninsula, fanned with the breezes of the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. It stands alone in its health-giving atmosphere. Its climate is even and equable. In summer it is rarely as warm as it is in the North, and there is always the sea breezes which temper the heat, it *never* being hot in the shade. The winters are mild and health giving, with a genial warmth unparalleled in America.

Florida is a land of fruits, and is ever blooming with flowers. It has immense wealth in its primitive forests of valuable timber. It is a land of *comfort*, as hundreds of thousands of people who live there, or have resided there in winter, will give testimony to. The State is advancing with wonderful progress in stock raising. Its navigable rivers give superior advantages over the other States of the Union. Its railroad system has made great strides in the development of the State, and promises a great future. Its wealth is only partially developed and progress is certain. Its waters are sweet and healthful.

The capabilities of the future of Florida are immense. It excels in richness of soil. Its products are preëminent and extraordinarily prolific. Its fruit culture has made rapid progress. It excels in health in a broad and comprehensive sense. It excels in the fertility of soil; and, greatest of all, it excels in its health giving atmosphere.

Hundreds of noted writers and Northern people who reside in Florida will testify to the great advantages possessed by this Paradise of America. It is the only State of the Union that has *doubled* its resources in the last four years. United States statistical reports are given in another column.

Like the magnet, Florida is drawing to its borders, CAPITAL from all parts of the world, and is soon destined to out-rival any State of the Union. Many regard it as a small State, but in area it is superior to New York and New Jersey combined. Its railroad development is phenomenal. Prominent and far-seeing Northern and Southern capitalists are interested heavily in the many railroads that bisect the State, and the future is extraordinarily promising.

OCALA, in the central part of the peninsula, is the county seat of Marion county, Florida, and is the seat of "THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL AND SEMI-TROPICAL EXPOSITION," incorporated by the State, which will open on January 15th, 1889, and will be a permanent Institution. It is in the hands of men of talent, which means success and progress. Four of the directors are managers of four of the principal railroads of Florida. No better place in the State could have been chosen for this Exhibition, and the Exposition, its inceptors and managers will pass into, not only the history of Florida, but also of the United States, as the great benefit to the South.

It is an astonishing fact that nine-tenths of all the *oranges* and *lemons* grown in Florida are produced within a radius of eighty miles of OCALA—the State being over 400 miles in length. The geographical position, and the concentration of railroads at OCALA, point to the fact that *it is* the proper place for the Exposition. Its future is great. It is speeding on to progress. It has its banks, newspapers, A No. 1 hotels, churches, schools, factories, etc. It is fast advancing on to an Aladdin-like success.

Florida did not lie in the line of immigration but the drift is that way,—and those who come to our balmy breezy shores will testify to the fact of recovered *health*, which means wealth and happiness. The day is *near* when Florida lands will double and quadruple in value. Remember that fact, reader, and act upon it.

Why ?

It is known that envy and jealousy has caused unnecessary rivalry between different sections of our noble State. Want of harmony is injury, and, like a poor musician in a band, brings discord.

NAPOLEON by concentration of his forces, WON the three campaigns. Co-operation means success. A house divided against itself will fall; therefore, let all of us, citizens of a State unrivaled, work together, and we shall be borne on by the tidal wave—success.

With our great resources, unparalleled advantages, our incomparable climate, we will enter the race at least equal. Join hands, citizens of Florida, and success will crown our efforts. Do not envy each other. Florida is our home and give all to her, as she deserves. Let jealousy be buried, and all unite in the development of our State, be it from the North, South, East or West.

We are pleased to know that the "CLYDE STEAMSHIP COMPANY" have resumed their trips to Florida. It is an encouraging sign, and we hope to see more winter sojourners in our State than before. We know they will not forget OCALA and her Exposition, which promises to be a grand success.

The American Pomological Society of the United States will hold their Biennial Session at Ocala, Florida, February 20th, 21st and 22d, 1889.

The Exposition and the FLORIDA SEMI-TROPICAL NEWS (illustrated) will be advertised in prominent American, European and Canadian journals and billed in Eighty-five of the leading cities in this country. The Florida railway system connects direct with the Exposition grounds. Full information regarding price of booths, space for displays of manufactures and products of all descriptions, entries and other privileges furnished on application. Arrangements are being perfected for cheap excursion rates from OCALA to all points in Florida of historic interest, and from all parts of the United States to OCALA. The city is amply supplied with hotels and private boarding-houses, where guests will be entertained at the regular charges, which range from $1 to $4 per day. In case of over-crowding, however, as occurred at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, in 1876, excursion trains will, at a merely nominal cost, convey belated travelers to adjacent towns where their wants will be provided for at city prices. Gardeners and landscape gardeners, florists and nurserymen will be permitted to use gratis, plots not to exceed two acres in area, provided they keep them in a state of perfect cultivation.

Orange Lake, in Marion county, will this year ship the enormous yield of 500,000 boxes of oranges.

Ocala occupies the proud position of the central distributing point in the State, high rolling lands, mammoth forests of wild orange groves, vegetable farms, fruit orchards, health-giving springs, sparkling rivulets, mirror lakes, navigable rivers and pine capped hills kneel suppliant at Ocala's feet. Yellow fever is a stranger to the inhabitants of this portion of the State, so blessed by nature with all that is good and beautiful, where sunshine is eternal, where flowers bloom unbidden and where the air, like the breath of the *tooba* tree, gives everlasting life.

"Persons coming to a new country generally carry with them the manners and customs of the place they have left, which are good enough in the community in which they have lived, but not always suitable to a country new to them in every feature. All have their own views, and some very erroneously think they know all about the country and everything that is necessary to carry out their object. My observation has been that too many new-comers are in too much of a hurry to locate, and that they fail to examine the characteristics of the different localities on which it would be desirable to settle and make a home. It would be time and money well spent for the intending settler to 'lie low' for a few days, make acquaintances, ask questions and hear all the people have to say. Let him ponder over it, weigh it well in his mind, and when he is well satisfied, then it is time to act. Every individual with whom the new-comer comes in contact seems to think (and many a one really believes) his own locality to be the best, and none other equal to it, and he therefore makes the statement conscientiously; yet the stranger should satisfy himself, and in a short time he will be competent to judge what is best for him to do, and he will be able to determine what location is best suited to his purpose, whether for investment or for the establishing of a home. The stranger will find many things very different from what he expects, and it behooves every new-comer to act with caution and discretion. He will find the people hospitable and ready to impart truthful information. They are, as a rule, intelligent, honorable in their dealings and straightforward in their representations; and from their continued residence in the country they know more about it than the stranger who has just arrived. Their experience is therefore well worthy of consideration.'

The Florida Railway AND Navigation Company

STANDARD GAUGE STEEL RAILS.

DIRECT TO ALL POINTS IN

FLORIDA

From FERNANDINA and JACKSONVILLE to the GULF COAST and MIDDLE FLORIDA.
From the GEORGIA STATE LINE to the EVERGLADES.

Connects at Jacksonville with all Railroad and at Fernandina with Steamship Lines running North, and Callahan and Live Oak, running North, West and South; also with Steamers plying the St. John's and tributary rivers. It is the only line connecting at Silver Springs with the Ocklawaha Steamers, at St. Marks with Steamboat to Northern Gulf Points, and at Panasoffkee with Steamboats down the beautiful Withlacoochee to the Tsala-Apopka Lakes.

Tourists, Invalids, Merchants, Sportsmen, Settlers,

Find the Florida Railway & Navigation Company the most direct, picturesque, expeditious, best equipped and only

TRUNK LINE

IN THE LAND OF SUNSHINE AND THE ORANGE.

ENTIRE SYSTEM RELAID WITH SIXTY-POUND STEEL RAILS.

PULLMAN DRAWING-ROOM, BUFFET, SLEEPING CARS on all TRAINS.

Jacksonville, Fernandina, Tallahassee, St. Marks, Walkulla Springs, Cedar Key, Gainesville, Bronson, Archer, Gulf Hammock, Silver Springs, Wekiva Springs, Dunnellon, Waldo, Homosassa, Belleview, Wildwood, Monticello, Madison, Live Oak, Pensacola, Chattahoochee, Crystal River, OCALA, Dade City, Sumpterville, Withlacoochee River, Panasoffkee, Lacoochee, Brooksville, Plant City, Tarpon Springs, Sutherland, Duneden, St. Petersburg, Clear Water Harbor, Pinellas, Leesburg, Tavares, Apopka, Orlando and Kissimmee.

Excursion rates, Coupon Ticket to the Florida International and Semi-Tropical Exposition at Ocala, which opens Jan. 15th, 1889.

This being the oldest railway in the State and having had the choice of route, it traverses the backbone of the peninsula, famous for red clay highlands, high rolling hammocks, most productive orange groves, cotton and tobacco belts, historic lake regions, mystical rivers and springs, grottoes and parks rich in foliage, bubbling brooks, fishes and fowls, and the best hunting grounds in the State—reaching the Gulf at St. Marks, Cedar Key and St. Petersburg.

Tickets to all points in Florida sold by all Railroad Coupon Ticket Agents; also by Thos. Cook & Son's Tourist Ticket Offices.
The Withlacoochee is the wildest and most romantic of rivers. The Silver, Walkulla and Wekiva the most wonderful Springs.

ASK FOR TICKETS VIA THIS ROUTE, AND TAKE NO OTHER.

D. E. MAXWELL, *General Superintendent.* A. O. MACDONELL, *General Passenger Agent.* N. S. PENNINGTON, *Traffic Manager.* WALTER G. COLEMAN, *General Traveling Agent.* M. V. RALEY, *Master of Transportation.*

C. S. BEERBOWER, *City Ticket Agent.* JAMES MENZIES, *General Freight Agent.*

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

T. S. DUMONT, *General Eastern Agent,* 391 Broadway, New York. W. E. DOWNING, *General Western Agent,* 249 W. Fourth St., Cincinnati, O.

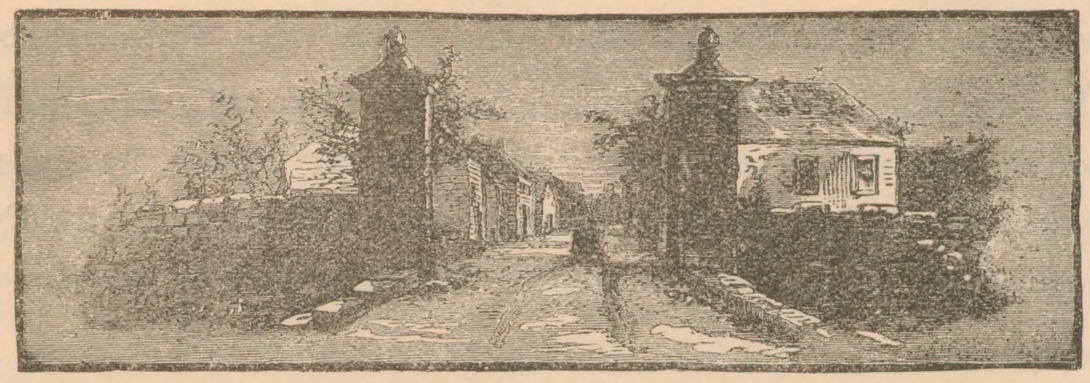
Interesting Foray into the Historic Fields of Florida.

BY FRED. A. OBER,

The great Naturalist and Archæologist in Florida.

OAKLAWN, FLORIDA.

OAKLAWN, a charmingly situated property in the famous Orange Lake region, belongs to Mr. Geo. W. Wilson, president of the Lake Weir Chautauqua, and a gentleman of wide and extensive erudition. In his capacity of senior official, Mr. Wilson entertained several of the lecturers invited to appear before the association, and gave them a taste of Floridian hospitality. It was my good fortune to be one of a little party invited to lunch at Oaklawn one day, where I had the privilege of sitting at the feet (figuratively speaking) of the famous philosopher and astronomer, Mr. Richard A. Proctor, and our great teacher, Edward Everett Hale. One of a kind of men of that quality is enough to encounter at once ; and the day that throws you into the company of both should be regarded as the greatest event of your life. But in addition, also, there were several others scarcely less well-known, so that it behooved me to be very careful of my speech. Perhaps it will be best not to record what occurred, but confine myself to describing merely what I saw on the trip of which this was only the beginning. Mr. Wilson has traveled extensively, and his home is enriched with the spoils of many a foray into foreign lands. Set down, as is the house, in the midst of oak and orange trees, with towering oaks guarding its portals, and wide-spreading views over Orange Lake afforded from its verandas, little is the wonder that every visitor to Oaklawn is charmed with its situation. Having had this delightful introduction to Sunny Florida, I will start on my journey southward.



GATES TO CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE.

Around and below Ocala (a beautiful town of about 6,000 inhabitants, the county seat of Marion), for many miles, is that section of the State called the "backbone" of Florida, consisting of high and rolling pine lands, occasional hammocks, and infrequent swamps. Of the numerous lakes that glisten here among the oaks and pines, none is more attractive than Lake Weir, and perhaps there is no section where bodies of fertile soil command higher prices. The railroads have evoked numerous towns and hotels, where, but a few years ago, solitude absolutely reigned. In 1876, in a side trip off from the Ocklawaha river, I crossed, on my way to Orange Lake, the graded road-bed of a railroad which had never been completed, with pine and oak trees growing on it nearly ten inches in diameter. It was a road projected before its time, perhaps, but the recent wonderful development of Florida has given it an impulse that has cleared off those pines and oaks, and added hundreds of miles to the original scheme. At Leesburg, a flourishing town between two large lakes, I branched off from the main line south, and wound about amongst some recent and richly located towns, such as Fort Mason, Eustis, Tavares and Lane Park, the latter on the beautiful Lake Harris. All have their advantages, but Lane Park has the prettiest site, though it is doubtful if any of them can be called superior to the others. A steamer took me across Lake Harris to Drake's Point, where there is a large and beautiful natural grove of orange trees, and whence I walked two miles to Yalaha, thence taking a team for the railroad again at Okahumkee. Yalaha has a fine site upon the lake. This section was once the favorite hunting and planting ground of the Seminoles many years ago. Their old gardens and fields, and numerous shell mounds, containing pottery and crude weapons, are to-day found in the richest hammocks, for the Seminole had the choice of the whole land, sixty years ago, and always selected the richest for his plantations. The road runs westerly until it crosses the Withlacoochee river, at Pemberton's Ferry, where a section of the South Florida connects with the Florida Southern again, at Bartow. The glimpses of the country between Leesburg and Lakeland reveal an open pine region, often widening out into swamp land and green prairies, dotted with contented horses and cattle. The green glades, with their bosses of oak and hickory, increase as we run south, and at about Lakeland in a triangle, enclosed by railroad, is a charming region of lakes and lakelets. Around Bartow there is much good land, and as far south as Fort Meade ; while below this, the railroad runs through pine barrens, the good land being on the coast and removed from the immediate line.

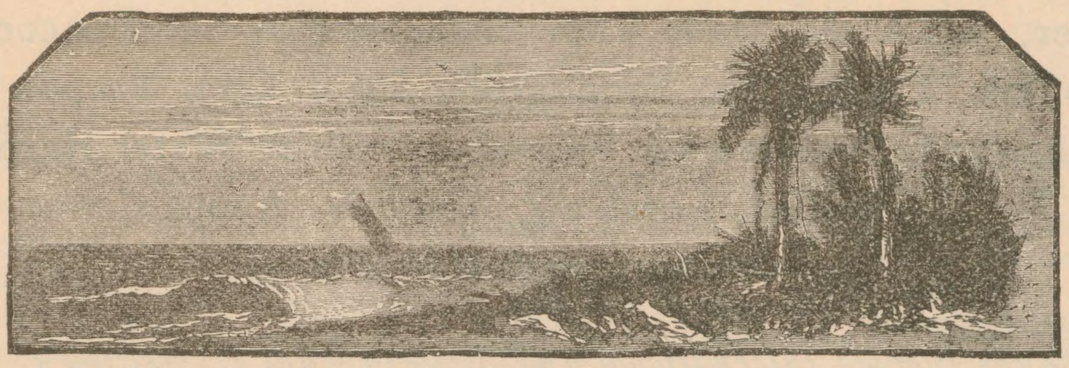
The terminus of the Florida Southern is at Trabue or Punta Gorda, which has the proud distinction of being the most southern point reached by railroad within the limits of the United States. You reach this point in a "sleeper," arriving at midnight, but are undisturbed till long after daylight, as the car lies over there twenty-four hours. Trabue is destined to be a place of great importance sometime. There is a magnificent hotel that has been recently constructed at a cost of over $130,000, and with rooms for over 100 guests. It faces the broad bay and looks out over a vast expanse of water and a stretch of pine-covered country. In front of it, a long wharf juts out into the channel, affording a fine promenade, while the intervening space is to be beautified with a lawn and garden. To make the point what it aims to be, the proper land terminal for lines leading down to Cuba, a very long wharf (said to be the largest in the U. S.) has been thrown out into the bay, and this enables the Gulf steamers to land freight and passengers without transfer. The water is deeper over the bar, it is also claimed, and the water journey between this point and Cuba some hundred miles shorter than between Tampa and Cuba. Punta Gorda (or Trabue) is directly north of Key West and Havana, and (as I have said), the southernmost point reached by rail in the United States. The vast bay here abounds in fish and water-fowl in the season, and the facilities for boating, of course, are unrivaled. Down the bay, near the mouth of Charlotte Harbor, lies Pine island, where a good hotel gives entertainment to hunters and fishermen from all over the world who revel in the delights of out-door life. The fishing about the "passes" into Charlotte Harbor is said to be the finest in the world.

I have before me a series of letters written ten years ago by a veteran angler of some local reputation, Dr. C. J. Kenworthy, of Jacksonville, better known to sportsmen over his *nom de plume* of "Al Fresco." In these letters he describes a water journey along the west coast of Florida, where he met with many adventures and caught many weighty strings of fish. Dr. Kenworthy was then searching for an entrance into Lake Okeechobee, that mysterious lake of the Everglades, the largest in the South. He did not succeed in penetrating the sea of saw-grass which surrounds this inland sea, but he obtained a glimpse of it from a tree near its margin, not far from Fish-eating Creek. About the same time, or a year previous (in 1874, in fact), I myself set out for Lake Okeechobee. The papers had for several years been full of strange stories about the "mysterious Lake Okeechobee," most of which sounded to me like stupendous lies—as they were. In 1872, I made the attempt to reach Lake Okeechobee from the eastern side, but failed to get through the surrounding swamps. In 1874, I took to Florida a large flat-bottomed boat, which I had built in Amesbury, Mass., and this boat I transported over land, sixty miles, from Fort Pierce on the Indian river, to the Kissimmee river which flows into Lake Okeechobee.

Launching my boat, well provisioned for a long trip upon the Kissimmee, I floated with three companions down that river well into the lake. The entire journey consumed a month, and was one of the most adventurous and fatiguing I ever undertook. But we succeeded in exploring the lake, entirely circumnavigating it, and returning without mishap to my camp on Indian river. This was the first exploration of Lake Okeechobee since the Seminole war, nearly fifty years ago. Other expeditions have since claimed to have explored it, but mine preceded all others within the past forty years. My letters of that time appeared in the "Forest and Stream" for that year, and also in "Appleton's Journal" for November, 1874.

At Punta Gorda, last week, I was at a point directly west of Observation Island in Lake Okeechobee, upon which I camped in February, 1874. There was very little land high and dry enough for a camping place, and this island has always been remembered for its affording us a place long sought for needed rest.

Since that time attempts have been made to drain off the water of the lake by a canal to the Caloosahatchee river, and thus reclaim a great body of swamp land. This attempt has been partially successful, lowering the water level, especially about the head-waters of the Kissimmee river, but not making any great perceptible impression upon Okeechobee itself.



A FLORIDA COAST SCENE.

Lying exactly a degree of latitude to the north of Punta Gorda is another Gulf port of vast importance to Florida—one that has been longer before the world than Trabue—the ancient town of Tampa, now wearing the garb of new life and enterprise. This town I reached on the day following my departure from Punta Gorda, as the trains of the J., T. & K. W. road make connection with the South Florida at Lakeland, and run westward through an indifferent country to the ancient town and new city at the head of Tampa bay. The recent establishment here of the new line to Cuba has given Tampa a place of importance and "boom," but now that a more direct route via Punta Gorda, Tampa will lose much of this boost. Tampa's adjunct, Ybor City, is becoming the great cigar manufacturing town in the United States.

The most attractive portion of Tampa is the site of old Fort Brooke, adjacent to the town proper. The banks of the creek are quite high here, and are crowned with live oaks of vast dimensions and beautiful proportions. These groves of live oaks are the most beautiful I have yet seen south of Ocala, and the walks beneath them so attractive that I hesitated ever to leave them. The great limbs were hung with festoons of Spanish moss, which gave them a singular aspect and most interesting shapes.

Walking through the grove which is still government property, and hence open to every visitor, you reach an artificial mound of shell, commanding a magnificent view of the bay and lower creeks. And this mound, though it has been greatly reduced since the white man's advent, was once a prominent landmark, not only to the voyagers along the coast, but in Floridian history, for it is the identical mound upon which stood the dwelling of the Indian cacique when the Spaniards first landed here, in the year 1528. Let us not be swept away in the recent wave of migration that is now surging over Florida, but halt a moment and pass in review the leading events of its earliest history.

Until about the year 1510, the discoveries of the Spaniards had been among the islands that enclose the Caribbean sea. Hitherto all their explorations had been directed south, east and west from Hayti. The Caribbean coast of South America was first explored by Columbus in his last voyage, from 1498, when he discovered Trinidad, to 1502 when he coasted Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. In 1510, Darien was founded by Euciso ; 1513, Balboa discovered the Pacific, and in 1514, the largest armament yet sent to the New World went under command of Pedrasias, with whom went Hernandez de Cordova, and who beheaded Balboa the same year. Cordova made his exploration of Yucatan in 1517. Another companion in arms was Hernando De Soto, whose whole estate was then no more than a sword and buckler, yet his merit and valor were such that Pedrasias gave him command of a troop of horse, and sent him with Pizarro to the conquest of Peru.

A new country is now to rise upon our vision ! When Juan Ponce de Leon, in 1512, set sail for the *Bimini and its Fountain of Rejuvenescence*, he coasted the Bahamas, landing on Guanahani, San Salvador, just twenty years after Columbus. O, the changes of that score of years ! Thence he sailed northward, and on the 2d of April sighted a coast "banked with lofty trees and gay with flowers," that sent their fragrance to him over the water. He landed in latitude 30° 8′ north, and named it Florida—this new country, having discovered it on *Pascua Florida*, or Palm Sunday. Thus the delights of the coast scenery, and the day itself, combined to impress upon this region the beautiful name of FLORIDA. But he found no Bimini, and returned disheartened to Porto Rico. He received, later, the title of Adetantado of Bimini and Florida, but it was not until his dormant spirit was aroused by the conquests of Cortez, that he again essayed a voyage to Florida, in 1521. He was repulsed, wounded—and died in Cuba, a few months later.

Let us turn back once more, and gather up these converging lines of adventure that lead towards the newly-risen continent. In the year 1511, there went to Cuba, from Jamaica, an honorable man, of graceful presence, tall and fair, in command of thirty archers—Pamphilo de Narvaez—who gained favor with Velasquez and aided materially in the conquest of the island. When, therefore, in 1520, Velasquez (who had fitted out the expedition to Mexico) became convinced that Cortez would never account to him for his conquests, but only to the King, he raised a large fleet of nineteen sail, with 1,400 soldiers and forty pieces of artillery, and gave the command to Narvaez, who was to bring Cortez to terms. Landing at Vera Cruz, in April, 1520, Narvaez proceeded to the stone city of Campoalla. where he fortified. Cortez was then in Mexico City, with Montezuma his prisoner. With his accustomed energy he gathered all his available troops, leaving Alvarado in charge of the city, and hastened to the coast. Narvaez had the superior force, but Mexican gold won over his best men, and in the ensuing battle he lost all, and he himself was wounded and taken a captive to Mexico. Most of his men perished in the terrible defeat of

La Noche Triste, when two-thirds of the entire Spanish army fell victims to the fury of the Aztecs. Released by Cortez in 1523, Narvaez returned to Cuba, thence to Spain; and in 1527 he set out upon a voyage of exploration and the conquest of the territory between Cape Florida and the River of Palms. This was attended with disaster; but in 1528 he sailed again, in February, with five vessels and 450 men—and landed in April *jnst north of Tampa Bay*, on the coast of Florida. It was sixteen years after the discovery, by De Leon; and eleven after Cordova had touched these shores, returning from his disastrous defeat at Yucatan. The tale of these first explorers of Florida is soon told. After aimless wanderings, beset on all sides by Indians, they at last reached the Gulf coast again, near the present St. Marks. There, forging nails and bolts from their armor, and making cordage from palmetto fibre and horse tails, they built boats and embarked for Panuco—across the Gulf, 1,200 miles distant—instead of sailing southward for Cuba. Panuco had then been colonized some eleven years. All but four were lost, finally, including Narvaez himself. One of the four, Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca, tells their story. They wandered for *seven years* among the Indians of Texas and Arizona, first hearing of the Spaniards in Jalisco. They reached Mexico City in May, 1536, and Old Spain in 1537.

Exceptionally unfortunate seems to have been this explorer, Narvaez—all his expeditions being attended with disaster, for few with either army—that to Florida as well Mexico—ever lived to tell the tale of their adventures to their friends, in Cuba or in Old Spain.

And, now, another figure of heroic stature looms above the unknown army that marched with such fevered haste into the depths of the mysterious continent.

The narrative of Cabeza de Vaca, when he had reached Spain, in 1536, stimulated the curiosity and enthusiasm of the host of adventurers then on the *qui vive* for new fields to conquer.

Florida then, we must remember, was absolutely a *terra incognita*—it had no bounds—they were undefined. Fifty years later "it was not known" whether Florida is bounded "on the north by the sea or by the land." It extended from the River of Palms, at Panuco (on the Mexican coast), northward indefinitely: at least to the Chesapeake—meeting there New France. In a general way, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Gulf of Mexico to the Frozen Ocean, little was known of this vast region now called Florida!

What wonder, then, that Hernando De Soto, recently returned from Peru, with a booty of 180,000 ducats, and living in Spain in splendid state, had his imagination kindled to that degree that he sought and obtained the privilege of its conquest, and the title *adelantado* of Cuba and Florida?

To be brief: De Soto's command of about 1,000 men and 350 horses, left Cuba May 18th, 1539—and landed on the 25th in the *Bay of Espiritu Santo—Tampa Bay*. Here live Hirrihigua, an Indian cacique, in a dwelling *on a great artificial mouna* —still standing, an important landmark of historical verity.

Here they found a captive, Juan Ortiz, a warrior of Narvaez's invasion, who had been twelve years a prisoner amongst the Indians. The Indians themselves, without exception, were valorous and warlike, never desisting from their attacks upon the strangers through all those long and weary marches during three years. Their houses were of poles, thatched with palm leaves; the bread they ate was made of *maes*, as in the Antilles; and it is said, the Spaniards pounded this *maes* in troughs of wood, bolted the meal "*through their coats of mail*, and baked the bread in pot-lids as in Cuba."

De Soto had with him the very flower of Spanish chivalry; not alone hidalgos and veterans of the West Indies, Mexico and South America, but the stock and sinew itself of Spain. People sold all and followed him to Cuba. One Gallegos (a kinsman of de Vaca) sold his "houses, vineyards and corn-lands, besides fourscore and ten acres of ground planted with olive trees." Ah! how he must have lamented later, this sacrifice of the venerable olive trees, and have longed for those sunny vineyards of Spain!

I would that we could follow this noble army in its devious wanderings, through piney woods and jungle, swamp and wilderness. But the space at my disposal forbids more than brief mention of their arrival, their disappearance into the wilderness, and the ultimate fate of their warriors. The coast appeared to them a marginal land of Paradise, as described by Veruzain, who coasted the shores in 1527:

"An outstretched country appeared at a little distance from the coast, in beautiful fields and broad plains, covered with immense forests more or less dense, too various in colors and too delightful and charming in appearance to be described; adorned with palms, laurel and cypress, that send forth the sweetest fragrance to the greatest distance."

No single episode in the annals of American history so savors of the romantic, as this expedition of De Soto! Those stately forests of pines that cover the western plains of Florida have witnessed the passage of steel-clad cavaliers; 'neath the wide-spreading oaks, hung with funereal tillandsia, have galloped the steeds of caballeros in armor, lance atilt, and shouting the war-cry of Spain. The plodding foot-soldier, with his cross-bow and arquebus, struggled after gorgeously-caparisoned horsemen, in vain pursuit of gold; that last hope of the ill-fated, whose first incentive is glory! But little gold found they, in Florida. Pearls, to be sure, in the country of the rich princess of Cofachiqui, they found in abundance; *fourteen bushels* in the sepulchur of her ancestors. They requited her in the usual manner, keeping her captive until she escaped; though she had generously supplied their every want.

De Soto was a noble and generous *caballero*—his melancholy fate has invested him with a halo that softens his asperities; as compared with his quondam companion, Pizzaro, he is an angel of light; but he would hardly pass as a gentlemen in these enlightened days.

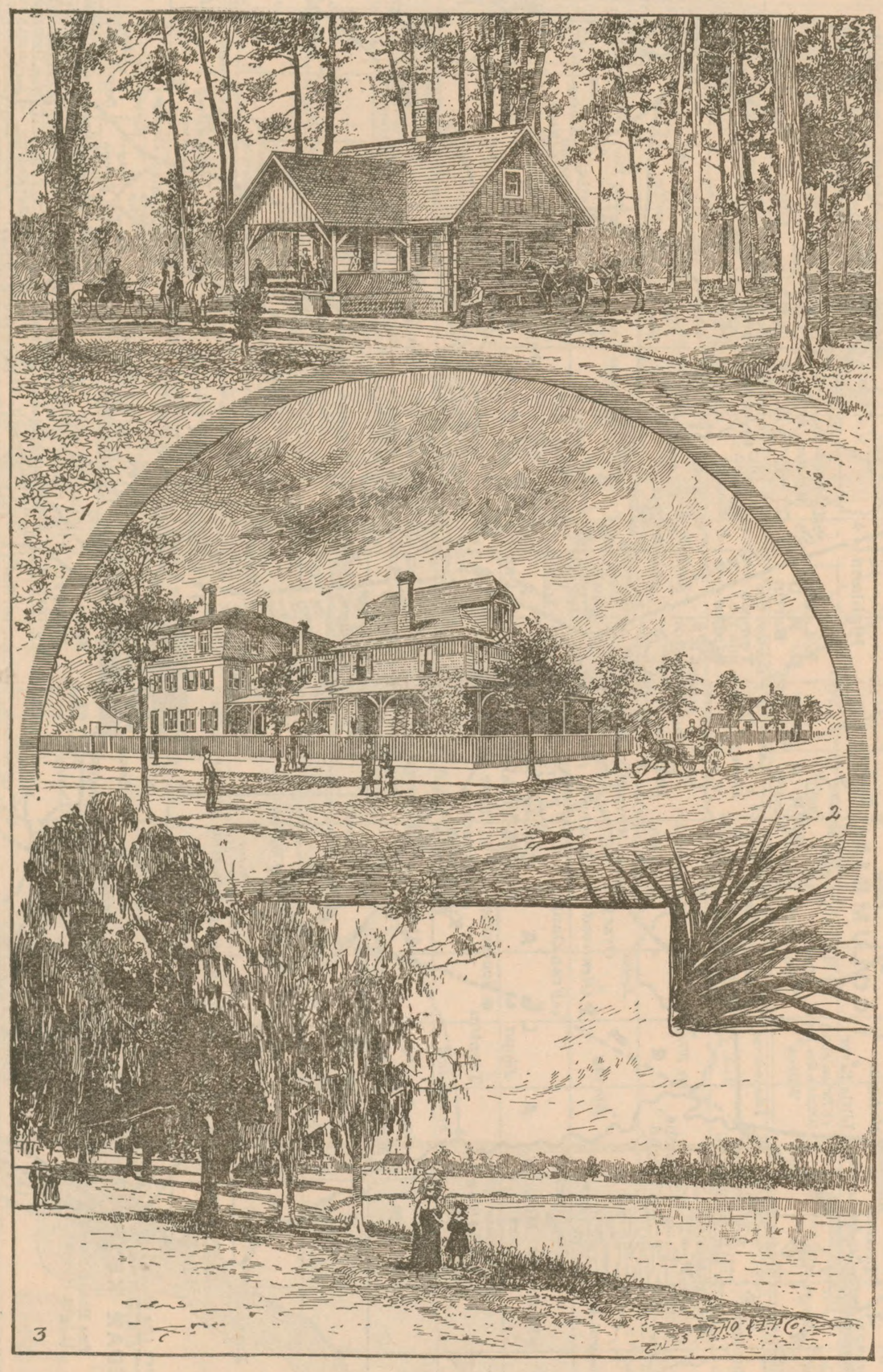
After months of marching, through interminable forests, De Soto heard that ships were on the coast ready to bear him back to Cuba. But he had not discovered that object of his life; no treasure of gold had yet rewarded his search; there was no second Cuzco or Aztec capital for him to plunder; so his soul was sick within him, and he deliberately turned his back upon the ships of Maldonado—southward on the coast from Mansilla (Mobile)—and marched north and westward again—to his death. Maldonado long waited his coming, but was at last obliged to sail sorrowfully back to Cuba, with the sad tidings of *no* tidings to the Lady Isabella.

Alas! that I cannot pause to narrate more in detail, this wondrous invasion; tell of the memorable deeds of such caciques as those of Ocali, Vitachuco, Copachiqui, Apalachee, Tuscaluza, Mansilla and Chicacilla. It only remains for us to note that De Soto met the fate he had marched swiftly to find. We draw the veil across his oaken coffin, on a day in 1542; when "the discoverer of the *Mississippi* slept beneath its waters. He had crossed a large portion of the continent in search of gold, and found nothing so remarkable as his burial place." (Garcelon de la Vega.)

After De Soto's death, his followers attempted to pursue de Vaca's route to Mexico (westward), but became discouraged, returned to the Mississippi and built seven large boats, in which they floated down the great river to the Gulf and thence to Panuco, which they reached in 1543.

This miserable remnant of De Soto's great command numbered only one-third, 300 men, of the original 1,000; yet the wonder is that so large an army should have so long subsisted—over three years—dependent solely upon the native supplies, and marching mainly through a trackless region.

The record of disaster to such Europeans as touched on Florida's shores does not end here, for in 1549, three Spaniards were massacred by Indians in Tampa bay. In 1552 a Spanish flote fleet was wrecked on the west coast, and of 1,000 persons only *one* escaped to Panuco; while in 1552 an expedition of 1,500 soldiers, under Don Tristan de Luna, was wrecked in Pensacola bay. The army penetrated the country, but finally abandoned it two years later. In 1562, seventy years after the discovery of America and fifty from that of Florida, we find Florida abandoned, and further, "the whole of that vast country, from Mexico to the Polar Sea, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific contained not a single settlement of the white race." But I did not intend to wander so far into the fields of Floridian history. The fact is, the early history of Florida is vastly more interesting than even its recent development to a large class that sojourn here for the winter. The first Spaniard, and the subsequent French settlers of the sixteenth century, wrought more of poetry and romance into the fabric of Florida's history than have been wrought in all the subsequent centuries.



BELLEVIEW, FLORIDA.

1. A WINTER RESIDENCE IN BELLEVIEW, FLA. 2. HOTEL BELLEVUE, BELLEVIEW, FLA.
3. PARK AND LAKELET BELLEVIEW FLA.

THE National Pomological Association will meet in Ocala, Feb. 20th to 22d, and hold their sessions in the Exposition building. Men from all sections, representing all fruit producing latitudes; men of science, and editors representing Pomological interests will be present. It will be the most interesting meeting of men, that are leaders in their particular vocation, ever held in the United States.

THE late lamented Prof. Richard A. Proctor, pronounced Florida's climate unequalled in every respect, and intended making his home here for years; and he would have been alive to-day, but for the fatal and criminal treatment of the New York Board of Health and their ignorant diagnosis of his malady.

LAKE, Hernando, Citrus, Pasco, Sumter, Alachua, Putnam, Levy, Hillsborough, Orange, Osceola, Polk and Marion counties represent the principal fruit raising sections of Florida, and are all placing their products on exhibition at the Semi-Tropical Exposition.

DON'T fail to visit the Semi-Tropical Exposition, and then take detours to Silver Spring, Blue Spring, Homosassa, Crystal river, Leesburg, Brooksville, Palatka, Gainesville, Tarpon Springs, and numerous small but delightful winter resorts adjacent to the location of the Exposition.

OYSTERS and clams not inferior to those of the Chesapeake, line the sea coasts, and the green and loggerhead turtles swarm along the Gulf shore as nowhere else, some weighing 800 to 1,000 pounds each.

"*The International Purchasing Agency*," will buy everything for you, often saving distant buyers twenty to thirty per cent. References. *Write*, 56 Wall street, New York.

Belleview.

BELLEVIEW was founded in 1884 by the "Ma-rion Land and Improvement Company," which was composed of a party of gentlemen who were actuated by a desire to open up and develop a body of land which seemed to possess all the elements that are necessary to the financial prosperity, individual happiness and healthfulness of a community.

The village site is upon an elevated rolling tract of pine land of more than average fertility, surrounding a beautiful little lake and situated upon the line of the Florida Railway and Navigation R.R., 116 miles southwesterly from Jacksonville, and twelve miles south of Ocala, the thriving seat of Marion county.

Hotel Bellevue, $2.50 per day, $8 to $12 per week; table unsurpassed. For information regarding lots, lands, orange groves, etc., address, Knight & Parkes.

Tourists' Map

OF

FLORIDA

Showing How to Reach

THE

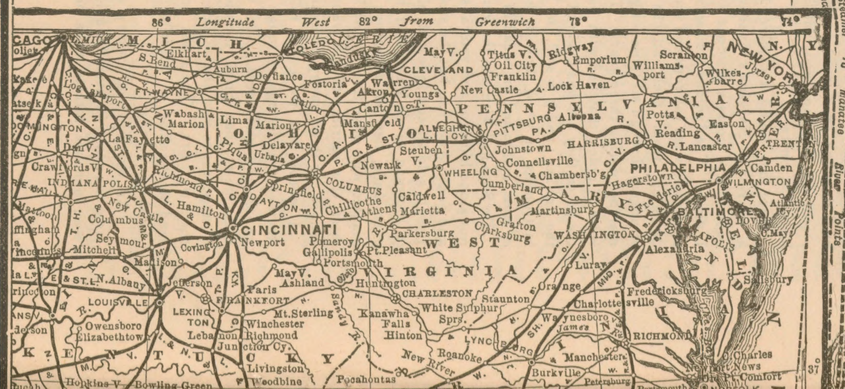
INTERNATIONAL

AND

SEMI-TROPICAL EXPOSITION

AT

OCALA, FLORIDA.



The Counties of Lake, Sumter, Citrus, Pasco, Hernando, Alachua, Levy, Putnam, Hillsborough, Orange, Osceola, Polk, and various other Counties in Middle and Southern Florida will be represented with exhibits of all kinds of fruits and agricultural products at

The International and Semi-Tropical Exposition.

What can be Raised with Profit in Florida.

TOBACCO.

ABOUT the year 1565 Sir John Hawkins carried tobacco from Florida to England, and it is interesting to note what an important factor tobacco has been in the commerce of the world. Though an article of luxury, it was in the early history of Florida looked upon as a convenient medium of exchange. In 1620, while there was an abundance of tobacco in the colonies, there was a great scarcity of females. An enterprising trader brought ninety young women from England to America and exchanged to the planters at 120 weight of female for 150 pounds of tobacco. King James issued a proclamation restraining this unlawful and obnoxious traffic. In 1570, Florida tobacco was first taken to Holland, and not until 1616 did the colonists of Virginia begin the planting of tobacco, the seed being obtained from what was then known as the Spanish Possessions—Florida.

Prior to the War Florida was celebrated for its tobacco, which was extensively and successfully cultivated. Recently the industry has been revived under the most favorable auspices, and promises to prove even more productive of wealth than in the past. The eyes of the world are now attracted to this region, what has again become famous for the large yield and very superior quality of its tobacco. The leaf grown here closely resembles, in appearance and flavor, the finest Havana wrappers, and we challenge any expert to detect the same, and is confessedly superior to that grown in any other part of the United States.

Fillers grown from genuine Vuelta Abajo seed, primes, price one dollar per pound; fine quality, superior to medium Vuelta Abajo seed, seconds, seventy-five cents per pound, and will produce from 1,000 to 1,500 lbs. per acre.

The following extracts are taken from a "Report upon the Cultivation of Tobacco in Florida," issued by Mr. H. R. Duval, receiver of the Florida Railway & Navigation Co. It was made by experts, who visited the plantations in person, and may be relied upon as trustworthy and conservative:

"We have found tobacco growing on quite a variety of soil, but mainly on sandy loam, with red clay sub-soil; eight to ten inches deep; again on sandy loam with no sub-soil; and in some instances on newly cleared bottom or hummock land, which seemed to be very rich and required no fertilizer. The crop seems to flourish and do well on all these soils, but it appears to us that the tobocco grown on the hummock land is of the best character, while its growth is more luxuriant. The country is well watered and timbered, and the land very fertile.

"The climate of Florlda is so favorable to the cultivation of tobacco that aside from the first or original crop, two sucker crops can be raised. This is accomplished by cutting the stalk off near the ground and leaving a sucker or shoot on the root, which will in a short time grow into a healthy, well developed stalk, on which the leaves will be lighter in weight, but larger and finer than the first crop. This, we believe, is an advantage enjoyed in no other tobacco-producing State in this country, as late springs and early frosts in the fall render a second or third crop in other sections an impossibility.

"With proper methods of growing and careful, intelligent curing and sorting, we see no good reason why Florida should not only regain her former prestige as a tobacco-producing State, but, indeed, become the *leading* tobacco State, for the natural advantages she enjoys, both in climate and soil, will go far toward giving her tobacco a reputation in the markets of the world that could scarcely be attained elsewhere in this country.

Florida tobacco should make a reputation for itself, for their is a certain flavor and aroma possessed by it that is both desirable and agreeable, and we think it will find much favor with the smoker when properly introduced, as the experiments thus far made in the raising of tobacco leave no doubt in our minds that the industry can be made a success, and also assume vast proportions.

"The culture of tobacco in Florida is not new; it is but the revival of what almost seems to be a lost industry. But never was there a more favorable time than the present for its renewal on a large and successful scale."

Corn will yield from 15 to 50 bushels per acre. The hummock lands may be relied upon to produce from 30 to 50 bushels.

Oats are largely planted, and yield from 20 to 60 bushels per acre.

Rye does fairly well, and furnishes good grazing and soiling all during winter.

Sugar cane attains great perfection, and is a valuable crop. Six hundred gallons per acre have been made, and yields of from 200 to 400 gallons are customary. The syrup grown is of superior quality, and should command a good price in market. The cost of cultivation is trifling.

Rice thrives on hummock lands, and yields abundantly.

Field peas thrive almost without care or cultivation.

Cotton, which has always been a staple crop on this plantation, and which is a desirable market crop, has much to recommend it. Its cultivation is comparatively cheap and simple, it is subject to few mishaps, is easily marketed, and always commands a ready sale at prices liable to but slight fluctuation. It is grown mainly on pine lands, these seeming to produce a finer staple than the hummocks. The lands produce from 200 to 500 pounds of lint per acre; well cultivated they will produce from one to two bales of 450 pounds each. Sea Island cotton is grown to perfection, and will average 400 pounds to the acre.

FRUITS.

The orange industry of Florida has excited the attention and admiration of the world, and it is yet in its infancy. Every known variety of the citrus family is grown to perfection. The fruit is ripe and ready for market in October, and the last of the crop is shipped in May. The fruit is of better quality, and of richer flavor, and of greater variety than can be produced in any part of the known world.

Besides the orange, other members of the citrus family, viz., the lemon, lime, citron, grape-fruit and shaddock, can be successfully grown in at least a large portion of the State. The lime and lemon will be about as widely used as the orange, though not so abundantly, and as not a tithing of so many are engaged in growing them, they will, perhaps, be about as profitable.

The banana is one of the most popular of tropical productions. It is generally relished from the first. It belongs to the family—the plantain—which is claimed to be the richest of all fruits in nutritious matter. It has a number of varieties.

The pineapple is largely an air plant, and in a suitable climate will do well, even in a poor soil. Indeed, it may and will be grown profitably anywhere south of 29° north.

The date-palm, from which is obtained the date of commerce, is a somewhat hardier plant than the cocoanut, and will do well.

The guava, a tree in its size and shape and manner of growth not unlike the peach tree, does about as well in the southern counties of Florida as it can anywhere. From its fruit is made the guava jelly of commerce, so widely and so favorably known over the world. The full crop ripens in August and September, but the trees have blossoms and fruit all the year, and all the year the fruit is ripening. They grow with less attention than the peach, and sometimes bear the second year from the seed. Cocoanut grows to perfection on the South Gulf Coast.

The want of space, prevents the description of alligator pears, Japan plums, peaches, pears, grapes, figs, plums, pecans, strawberries, melons, blackberries, which thrive in abundance all over the State. Honey is rapidly becoming a staple product of Florida, whose climate and flora seem specially adapted to the propagation of bees.

The Cost of an Orange Grove.

Clearing for the plow, at $25 per acre, hummock land.	$150 00
Plowing and subduing the land	15 00
Limeing and staking off for planting	17 50
250 orange trees at nursery, three to four years old, at 50 cents each	125 00
Planting 250 orange trees	75 00
Cultivating first year, at $15 per acre	75 00
Estimated total cost for first year	$457 50
Estimated expense for next three years	300 00
Total probable expense to secure an eight-year old orange grove	$757 50

Add to this, cost of land, which varies according to quality and location.

Estimate of Products.

Name of Product.	*Highest and Lowest Price per Acre.*
Strawberries	$300 to $800
Peaches, Pears, Grapes	500 to 600
Oranges	700 to 1500
Lemons	700 to 1500
Limes	800 to 2000
Grape Fruit	800 to 1000
Egg Plants, Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Irish Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Cabbages, Cauliflower, Celery	150 to 300
White Turnips	100 to 150
Rutabaga "	150 to 200
Okra	250 to 400
Onions	350 to 600
Peas	200 to 300
Beans	200 to 300

The above table answers in the most convincing manner how your time and labor can be profitably employed while you are waiting for your orange grove to bear. It should also be stated that while your trees are young and small, the ground between them can be utilized in the culture of various small fruits, or as a truck garden. The cultivation necessary to raise these crops is also a decided advantage to the grove of orange trees.

Items.

THE main purpose of the International and Semi-Tropical Exposition is to present to the public unvarnished facts, and to place on exhibition the resources and products of Semi-tropical and Tropical Florida, and call attention to a section of the State formally diverted to other localities.

CLIMATE, soil, trees, flowers, fruits, the waters of the sea, the land, and last and greatest of all else, healthfulness, invite the immigrant to Florida. The varying character of these in different portions of Central, Interior and Western Florida allows most tastes to be suited,

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The death-rate of Florida is less than any other State in the Union. United States Surgeon-General in his report gives, for Massachusetts, 1 in 254; in New York, 1 in 473; in Minnesota, 1 in 755; and in Florida, 1 in 1 477. The consumptive death-rate of New York City is 16%. Death rate during the yellow fever epidemic less than 8%.

FAILURES have been made in Florida, frauds and misrepresentations imposed upon the public, but it is not Florida's fault. She has the climate, the soil, the resources to make her what no other State can be. So come to the Semi-Tropical Exposition at Ocala, and see just what can be raised on Florida soil. Select your county and go and see for yourself, after seeing their products at the Exposition.

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The Star Skies of Florida.

BY RICHARD A. PROCTOR.

SINCE it has become known in Missouri (where I have resided for several years) that I shall presently make my home in Florida, and that I have been heard—in Missouri as well as down South—to express considerable enthusiasm for the advantages which Florida seems to me to present as a place for astronomical work, I have been asked by many what these advantages are. "The same stars are visible, are they not, in Florida as in other parts of America?" "Can you see any other planets there? or the sun and moon under different conditions? Will you find a new field in which to search for comets, or for any other astronomical objects?"

Presuming that my first thoughts in proposing to visit Florida were of a terrestrial, by no means of a celestial character, having reference rather to climate than comets, to the avoidance of old catarrhs rather than to the requisition of new constellations, I may answer the questions which I have been asked about the skies of Florida more satisfactorily perhaps in a Florida journal than elsewhere.

Of course the starry heavens, as seen from Florida, do not very greatly differ from those which can be viewed from Washington or Philadelphia, or even from New York or Boston, not very greatly, yet in some considerable degree. When I had published my "Half Hours with the Stars" in England many copies found their way to America, and many complaints reached me as to the inadequacy of my English maps for American skies. Constellations visible in Boston, for instance, were not shown at all in my English Half-Hours; and though no stars visible in England fail to show in Boston or New York, my maps showed some constellations above the horizon of London which were not at the times indicated visible above the horizon of cities in the Northern States. Now there is something like the same difference between the skies of Florida and those of Massachusetts, which exists between the skies of Boston and those of London. A band of zone of the celestial sphere, some, ten degree (or twenty sun-breadths) wide, is visible in the course of the year from Florida which never rises above the horizon of Massachusetts. It is towards the South that these Southern constellations are seen, and they are practically so much added to the star-fields which the astronomer can survey. For though when Southern stars are visible in the lower part of the Southern Floridian sky which are never seen in Boston, stars seen towards the North in Boston are below the horizon of Florida; these stars, invisible at the time, rise high above the Floridian horizon at other times. But the Southern constellations and parts of constellations I am about to mention are never seen at all in the Northern States; while also many important stellar regions which are favorably seen in Florida are seen very low down, and therefore seen under very unfavorable conditions, in Massachusetts.

Due South at about ten in the evening, of late September, the constellation of the Crane is seen in Florida, say from my house (Corona Lodge) at Oaklawn, Orange Lake, of which part only is above the horizon of New York or Boston—or say from my house in St. Joseph, the whole constellation being very unfavorably seen from these Northern stations. A month later the Phœnix at the same hour, has risen well above the horizon of Orange Lake, but can be seen only in part and unsatisfactorily from my Missouri home. A month later yet, that is, towards the end of November, the bright star Achemar shines low down near the horizon of Orange Lake, a star which once shone high in the Southern skies of Egypt and Chaldea, but has now, owing to the slow reeling of the earth (and therefore the slow gyration of the star sphere) in the long processional period of 25,868 years been carried of much nearer the South Pole that it cannot be seen from any station north of the 31st degree of latitude. *Horologium*, the clock, is also visible due south at the season named, with many stars of the River Eridanus, which here at St. Joseph we never see.

A month later the Sword Fish, *Dorodo*, shows in the southern skies of Florida, but is below the horizon of the Northern and Middle States. The brilliant Canopus, second only to Virius in splendor, is nearing at this season (late December) the south point, and well in view from Orange Lake, but is never seen in Missouri. In January the keel of the great ship Argo passes late at night athwart the meridian, hundreds of stars belonging to this rich region of the heavens being visible in Florida, but unseen in the the Middle and Northern States. Late at night, in February, there can be seen in Florida, but not in New York or Boston or St. Joseph, the strangest and most interesting feature of the sidereal heavens; the broad, dark gap across the milky way, separating the two great fan-shaped expansions of the galactic stream where the ancients pictured the torn sails of the great ship. At ten in the evening of late March, stars of the important southern constellation, the Centaur, draw near the southern part of the Floridian sky, which the inhabitants of the Northern and Middle States must travel far south to see. In April, at the corresponding hour, half the Southern Cross can be seen from my home near Orange Lake, the whole constellation being visible from the southern parts of the State. No one in the Middle States may hope to see any part of this constellation without traveling as far south as this point. At Lousville not a star of the Cross can be seen; and even at New Orleans the two stars which mark the crossbeam only skirt the horizon, the star marking the top of the upright being the only orb of the four making the Cross which is well seen. In late May, at about the 10th, the two bright stars marking the fore feet of the Centaur are seen above the horizon of Orange Lake, though not much more than the moon's diameter above the water-line. And so passing on to June we find the whole Altar visible in Florida; in July the ill-named constellation, the Telescope, comes into view, and in August parts of the Indian and the Peacock, which in the Northern and Middle States are either wholly invisible, or —in the case of the Altar only—are seen but in part and unfavorably, can be well seen from Floridian stations. Thus passing round the circuit of the star sphere, we find many important stellar regions and hundreds of interesting stars, visible from Florida which cannot be seen from the Northern and Middle, and even from several of the Southern States.

The Wonder of Interior Florida.

THE FAMOUS SILVER SPRING.

THIS remarkable spring is situated near the centre of Marion county, Florida, five miles east of Ocala. Its waters are discharged by a short stream, bearing the same name, which, after running about six miles, unites with the Ocklawaha, a tributary of the St. John's river. The amount of water discharged is so large that steamers filled with tourists and barges readily navigate the Silver Spring up to the pool, or head-spring, where there is a landing for the shipment of oranges, cotton, sugar and other produce. These steamers make regular trips between the spring and Palatka on the St. John's. The commencement of the rainy season changes from the 15th of June, to the 15th of July.

The waters of the spring begin to rise about the middle of the season of summer rains, and attain their maximum height about its termination. The maximum depth of water in the basin, constituting the head of the spring, including the crevices from which the water boils up, is from sixty to over one hundred feet. The "bone-yard," from which several specimens of mastodon bones have been taken, is situated two miles below the head spring, it being a cove or basin measuring twenty-six feet.

The most remarkable and really interesting phenomenon presented by this spring, is the truly extraordinary transparency of the water—in this respect surpassing anything that can be imagined. All of the intrinsic beauties which invest it, as well as the wonderful optical properties which popular reports have ascribed to its waters, are directly or indirectly referable to their almost perfect diaphancity. On a clear and calm day, after the sun has attained sufficient altitude, the view from the side of a small boat floating on the surface of the water near the centre of the head spring, is beautiful beyond description, and well calculated to produce a powerful impression upon the imagination. Every feature and configuration of the bottom of this gigantic basin is as distinctly visible as if the water was removed and the atmosphere substituted in its place. A large portion of the bottom of this pool is covered with a luxuriant growth of moss-like plants or fresh water algæ, which attains a height of three or four feet. The latter are found in the deepest parts of the basin. Without doubt the development of so vigorous a vegetation, at such a depth, is attributable to the large amount of solar light which penetrates these waters. Some parts are devoid of vegetation. These are composed of limestone rock and sand, presenting a white appearance. The water boils up from fissues in the limestone; these crevices being filled with sand and comminuted lime-stone, indicate the ascending currents of water by the local milk-white appearance produced by the agitation of their contents. These observations were made about noon during the month of December—the sunlight illumining the sides and bottom of this remarkable pool, brilliantly, as nothing abstracted the light. The shadows of our little boat, of our hanging heads and hats, of projecting crags and logs, of the surrounding forest and the vegetation at the bottom, were distinctly and sharply defined; while the constant waving of the slender and delicate moss-like algæ, by means of the currents created by the boiling up of the water in the centre, and the swimming of the numerous fish above this miniature subaqueous forest, imparted a living reality to the scene which can never be forgotten. If we add to this picture, already sufficiently striking, that objects beneath the surface of the water, when viewed obliquely, were fringed with the prismatic hues, we shall cease to be surprised at the mysterious phenomena with which vivid imaginations have invested this enchanting spring, besides the inaccuracies which have been perpetuated in relation to the wonderful properties of its waters. On a bright day the beholder seems to be looking down from some lofty air-point on a truly fairy scene in the immense basin beneath him—a scene whose beauty and magical effect is vastly enhanced by the chromatic tints with which it is enclosed.

Popular opinion has ascribed to these waters remarkable magnifying power. In confirmation of this, it is commonly reported that the New York *Herald* can be read at the deepest parts of the pool. It is almost needless to state that the waters do not possess this magnifying power, that it is only the large capitals constituting the heading of this paper that can be read at the bottom, and that the extraordinary transparency of the water is abundantly sufficient to account for all analogous facts.

THE LEGEND OF SILVER SPRING.

The surroundings are eminently suggestive of Indian history and legendary lore. It may not be uninteresting to give to our readers the following: A long time ago when Okahumkee was king over the tribes of Indians who roamed and hunted around the southwestern lakes, an event occurred which filled many hearts with horror. The king had a daughter named Wenonah, whose rare beauty was the pride of the old man's life. Wenonah was exceedingly graceful and symmetrical in figure. Her face was of an olive complexion, tinged with light brown, her skin finely transparent, exquisitely clear. It was easy to see the red blood beneath the surface, and it often blushed in response to the impulses of a warm and generous nature. Her eye was a crystal of the soul—clear and liquid, or flashing and defiant, according to the mood. But the hair was the glory of the woman. Dark as the raven's plume, but shot with gleams of sacred arrows, the large masses, when free, rolled in tresses of rich abundance. The silken drapery of that splendid hair fell about her like some crystal cloak dropped from the cloudlands rare and radiant loom. Wenonah was in truth a forest belle—an idol of the braves—and many were the eloquent things said of her by the red men when they rested at noon, or smoked around the evening fires. She was a coveted prize, while chiefs and warriors vied with each other as to who should present the most valuable gift, when her hand was sought from the king, her father. But the daughter had already seen and loved Chuleotah, the renowned chief of a tribe which dwelt among the wild groves of Silver Spring. The personal appearance of Chuleotah, as described by the hieroglyphics of that day, could be no other than prepossessing. He was arrayed in a style suitable to the dignity of a chief. Bold, handsome and well-developed, he was to an Indian maiden the very ideal of manly vigor. But it was a sad truth that between the old chief and the young, and their tribes, there had been a deadly feud. They were enemies. When Okahumkee learned that Chuleotah had gained the affections of his beloved child, he at once declared his purpose of revenge. A war of passion was soon opened, and carried on without much regard to international amenities; nor had many weeks passed away before the noble Chuleotah was slain—slain, too, by the father of Wenonah.

Dead! Her lover dead! Poor Wenonah! Will she return to her parental lodge, and dwell among her people, while her father's hand is stained with the drippings of her lover's scalp? No; she hurries away to the well-known fountain. Her heart is there, for it is a favorite spot and was a trysting place where herself and Chuleotah met. Its associations are all made sacred by the memories of the past, while on the glassy bosom of the spring, the pale ghost of Chuleotah stands. "Yes, my own, my loved one, I come. I will follow where thou leadest, to the green and flowery land." Thus spake the will if not the lips of the maiden. It is not a mere common suicide which she now contemplates, it is not despair, nor a broken heart, nor the loss of reason; it is not because she is sick of the world or tired of life. Her faith is that by an act of self-immolation she will join her lover on the spirit-plain, whose far-off strange glory has now for her such an irresistible attraction.

The red clouds of sunset had passed away from the Western skies. Gray mists came stealing on, but they soon melted and disappeared as the stars shone through the airy blue. The moon came out with more than common brilliancy, and her pale light silvered the fountain. All was still, save the night winds that sighed and moaned through the lofty pines. Then came Wenonah to the side of the spring, where, gazing down, she could see on the bottom the clear, green shells of limestone, sloping into sharp hollows, opening here and there into still profounder depths. Sixty feet below, on a mass of rock was her bed of death—easy enough for her, as before she could reach it the spirit must have fled. The jagged rocks on the floor could, therefore, produce no pain in that beautiful form. For a moment she paused on the edge of the spring, then met her palms above her head, and with a wild leap she fell into the whelming waves.

Down there in the spring are shells finely polished by the altrition of the waters. They shine with purple and crimson mingled with white irradiations, as if beams of the aurora, or clouds of the tropical sunset had been broken or scattered among them. Now, mark those long, green filaments of moss, or fresh-water algæ, swaying to and fro to the motion of the waves; these are the loosened braids of Wenonah's hair, whose coronet gives us such beautiful corruscations, sparkling and luminous, like diamonds of the deep, when in the phosphorescence of night the ocean waves are tipped with fire. These relics of the devoted Indian girl are the charm of the Silver Spring. But as to Wenonah herself—the real woman who could think and feel, with her affections and memory—she has gone to one of those enchanted isles far out in the Western seas, where the maiden and her lover are united, and where both have found another Silver Spring, amid the rosy bowers of love eternal.

NOTE.—Those attending the International and Semi-Tropical Exposition will have splendid opportunities of visiting this wonderful Spring, and excursions will be run daily, as well as to Blue Spring on the south, a sheet of water quite as beautiful, or Crystal River, and the sportsman's famous corner, Homosassa.

Central and Interior Florida.

AN IDEAL WINTER CLIMATE.

BY DR. GEORGE TROUP MAXWELL, OF JACKSONVILLE.

THE considerate and humane, whether physicians or laymen, must feel a deep interest in the subject of a climatic sanitarium for invalids suffering with diseases of the respiratory organs, for, chiefly, two reasons:

1st. The appalling fatality of these diseases—the deaths from consumption alone being annually more than double the number from any other cause; and,

2d. The failure of the best directed and most skillful medical treatment to diminish the fearful mortality.

An appropriate inquiry, just here, is, does the result of change of climate offer sufficient encouragement to physicians and patient to warrant the former in advising and the latter in undertaking the inconvenience, labor and expense involved in the experiment? If the results of the observations and experience of those who are in situations which enable them to draw correct conclusions, did not, as they certainly do, justify a positive affiirmative reply, statistics would suggest such a response as appropriate.

No one can fail to discover the significance, or to appreciate the value of facts like these: "The mortality from consumption as compared with all other causes is, in Maine, 258 to 1000; Connecticut, 179; Pennsylvania, 142; South Carolina, 90; whilst in Florida it is only 58 to 1000." What explanation other than climatic influence can satisfactorily account for the fact, that, passing from our extreme Northern States, as we may go southward there is a constant, rapidly descending ratio of mortality from pulmonary diseases?

Yet, striking as these figures are, they do not give full justice to Florida. Prof. Levis, of Philadelphia, says:

"The low mortality of Florida exists, notwithstanding the number of Northern invalids who seek too late its healthy air only to end their days and add to the normally very low death-rate. The best authority on the subject, Dr. Kenworthy, of Jacksonville, who has given much intelligent attention to climate in the cure of consumption, and to sanitary statistics in general, believes that the mortality from consumption among the permanent residents of Florida actually does not exceed 30 to 1000 from all causes."

Nor are the results of a comparison of mortality statistics so favorable to Florida confined to inquiry into the proportion of death in the Atlantic States. From the instructive pamphlet of Prof. Coomes, of Louisville, I take the following: In Minnesota the deaths from consumption are as 1 to 7.6, from all other causes; California, 1 to 7.2; Texas, 1 to 16; Louisiana, 1 to 10; Arkansas and Alabama, each, 1 to 14.2; Georgia, 1 to 15.6; Mississippi, 1 to 13.2; and in Florida, 1 to 17.8." I learned, during a recent visit there, from an intelligent physician located in the blue grass region of Kentucky, that in that section, so favored of God in other respects, the ratio of deaths from consumption is as 1 to 6 from all other causes.

These imposing facts, established by cold, unimpassioned figures, were not manufactured by persons who may be suspected of being inflenced by personal or pecuniary interest in Florida. They are derived from the National Census and were arranged by non-residents.

There is, I believe, universal agreement among writers on the subject, that *equability of temperature, comparative dryness of air and soil, and purity of atmosphere*, are essential elements of a winter climate for invalids suffering from diseases of the respiratory organs. There is not such entire accord upon the question of *range* of temperature.

Common sense, observation and experience unite in declaring that, for a large majority of such invalids, the temperature should be such as to warrant and invite them to be and remain indefinitely in the open air without discomfort, and to permit its free entrance into their apartments day and night. It is simply impossible to over estimate the hygienic effect of *living*, as it were, out of doors, breathing pure, fresh air, and basking in the genial light of the sun. An artificial climate with the elements of warmth and dryness, may be manufactured in every Northern home; but there is no substitute for the God-given pure air and sunlight which invalids can enjoy in Florida almost every day in winter.

Consumptives, as a rule, suffer from defective digestion and assimilation. Nutrition is, therefore, imperfect, and, as a consequence, the vital powers are depressed. The heat-generating function, especially; except as the result of too rapid destructive metamorphosis, is abnormally feeble. Such invalids are exceedingly sensitive to sudden alternations of temperature, and to changes in the hygrometric state of the atmosphere. A sudden fall of temperature, or a gust of moisture-laden wind, chills and blights them instantly. Can there be anything more unphilosophical, not to say cruel, than to send such patients to localities where the mercury often falls, in a few hours, from 30 to 60 degrees, and generally hovers in the neighborhood of zero; or to places where the conducting power of the air is rapidly increased by moisture-laden winds! In either case the strain upon the vital powers of an invalid is more than he can bear, and he sickens and dies; or lingers and languishes in the confined, impure atmosphere of a superheated chamber.

The tendency to rely upon concentrated foods in the treatment of disorders of the digestive organs, has grown with the experience of their beneficial effect; yet in this enlightened age we are gravely told that the truly scientific method of managing the derangements of another system of organs, is to reverse this important principle of treatment. The impaired stomach requires concentrated food, thus imposing less labor upon, and giving partial rest to, an enfeebled organ; but the diseased, and probably disorganized lung can better recover, say these philosophers, on attenuated air! Therefore, their patients are sent "upon a high mountain," where, because the air is rarefied and attenuated, a small amount of oxygen is inhaled with each inspiratory effort, and the feeble heart is stimulated, and the diseased lungs' movements are hurried, that the demand of the poorly nourished body for oxidized blood may be satisfied. Instead of the much needed *rest*, so essential to inflamed organs, there is overexertion to breathe, and, therefore, irritation and aggravation of an erstwhile manageable case.

Granting the truth of Prof. Levis's remark, that "the ideal winter climate for invalids, embracing perfectly all the requirements, and suited to the fancy and caprice of sufferers, may not be found," it is capable of demonstration, nevertheless, that Florida possesses the essentials in a higher degree than any country now known.

It is my purpose to show that there is a portion of Florida, hitherto unknown, which is better adapted for a winter resorts for invalids, especially those afflicted with weak or diseased respiratory organs, than any of the popular resorts of this, or any other country. Indeed, even the less favored localities of Florida will compare favorably with the resorts in other States or countries.

Perhaps one of the most surprising facts developed by the study of comparative meteorology, in its bearing upon climates, is that it *proves Florida to have a moderately dry atmosphere.* According to Vivenot's classification, an atmosphere with a percentage of humidity between 56 and 70, is moderately dry. Jacksonville, notwithstanding its unfavorable location upon the St. John's River, and near the Atlantic Ocean, has 68 per cent. of relative humidity in its atmosphere, which brings it within the range of a moderately dry climate; "and this," Prof. Coomes says, "is much more moist than most of the interior towns."

The following table compiled by Dr. Kenworthy from the Signal Service Reports, shows that Jacksonville, in the matter of dryness of air, compares favorably with the popular resorts in all parts of the world:

MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY.

	Years.	November.	December	January.	February.	March.	Mean for 5 months.	Mean for 5 months.
		per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent
Mentone and Cannes	3	71 8	74.2	72.0	70.7	73.3	72.4	
Nassau, N. P.... ...	1	76.1	72.0	77.0	72.5	68 4	73.2	
Atlantic City, N. J...	5	76.9	79.1	80.6	77.3	76.8	78 1	
Breckenridge, Minn.	5	76.9	83.2	76.8	81 8	79.5	79.6	
Duluth, Minn.....	5	74 0	72.1	72.7	73 3	71.0	72.6	74.5
St. Paul, Minn.....	5	70.3	73.5	75.2	70.7	67.1	71.3	
Punta Rassa, Fla....	5	72 7	73.2	74 2	73.7	69.9	72.7	
Key West, Fla. . . .	5	77.1	78.7	78.9	77.2	72.2	76.8	72.7
Jacksonville, Fla....	5	71 9	69.3	70.2	68.5	63.9	68.8	
Augusta, Ga.....	5	71.8	72.6	73.0	64.7	62.8	68.9	
Bismarck, Dak.....	1	76.6	76.4	77.4	81.6	70 6	76.5	
Boston, Mass.....	1	68.0	61.8	66.6	68 2	63 7	65 6	

"The public and a large majority of medical men speak of Minnesota as possessing a dry an desiccating climate, and of Jacksonville as having a moist and changeable one—an atmosphere loaded with moisture.' But three stations in the former give a mean of 74.5, and Jacksonville 68.8, or 5.7 in favor of Jacksonville."

To the same author I am indebted for the subjoined table showing a comparison of the amount of rainfall during the five months beginning with November, comment upon which is unnecessary.

RAINFALL IN INCHES AND HUNDREDTHS.

	Years.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	Mean for 5 months.
Nice.....	28	5 11	4 12	3.06	1.68	2.89	16.86
Mentone	9	5.34	3 15	1.70	2.18	4.13	16.50
Nervi.....	7	6.00	4.88	4.78	2 33	4.49	23.40
Genoa.....	29	7 61	4.86	4.39	4.27	3.59	24.72
Atlantic City, N. J	5	4.61	3.60	2.76	2.10	3 86	16.93
Augusta, Ga	5	4 56	3 09	3 70	3.64	5 65	20.64
Jacksonville, Fla.....	5	3 02	3.38	2.34	5 14	2.84	16.62
Key West, Fla.....	5	2.43	1.33	2.18	2.22	0.94	9.10
Punta Rassa, Fla.....	5	2.38	0.99	1.69	2.07	1.04	8.77

To illustrate by comparison another of the important factors of climate—the question of temperature, I avail myself of Dr. Kenworthy's industry and research, and take the following table exhibiting the mean temperature of

TEMPERATURE.

	Years.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	Mean for 5 months.
Cannes, Mediterranean.....	3	54.6°	48.8°	48 5°	49 4°	52.8°	50.8°
Nice, Mediterranean.	3	53.8	48.5	47.0	48.4	51.8	49.9
Mentone, Mediterranean...	3	52.2	50.5	48.8	50.4	53 4	51.6
Nervi, Mediterranean.....	3	55.2	47.8	46.2	47 8	49.0	49.2
Nassau, N. P	1	75.7	72 3	72.2	71.9	74.4	73.3
Atlantic City, N. J.....	4	45.3	35.3	32.2	33 2	37.1	36.6
Augusta, Northern Ga.....	4	54.9	47.6	48.1	49.6	57.0	51.4
Breckenridge, Minn.....	5	17 3	13.4	6.8	13.1	18 9	13 9
Duluth, Minn	4	28 8	21 6	12.4	19.2	25 7	21.5
St. Paul, Minn	5	28.3	20.0	13 0	19.4	27.6	21.7
Key West, Fla.....	5	74 5	70.5	70.5	71 7	73 8	72 2
Punta Rassa, Fla..	5	69.7	64.8	65.5	65 9	69.8	67.1
Jacksonville, Fla.....	4	62.1	55.8	56 2	56.9	62 7	58.7
Aiken, S. C	5	54.7	46.7	46.4	47.5	56.4	50.3
Los Angelos.....	1	62.1	55.3	54 1	54.6	55.8	56.3

resorts in all parts of the world during the five months commencing with November.

"It is evident," says Prof. Levis, "that in Europe and in this country mild and warm climates have of recent years grown in favor as health resorts," and Dr. Kenworthy declares that "the modern professional view that *a temperate, dry, and sunny clime* is best adapted to the treatment of a large proportion of pulmonary diseases, is one of the most valuable contributions that modern science has made in the treatment of such diseases." Such being the case, I ask the reader's careful consideration of the facts I have as concisely as possible presented, confident that they must lead the minds of all impartial inquirers to the conclusion that in Florida are to be found the elements of a *climatic sanitarium* in a higher degree than are to be found elsewhere.

But Florida is a large State, covering a great extent of territory, with, of course, varying topographical features, which, to a certain degree, exert a modifying influence upon the climate of different localities. "During a visit to Florida," says Prof. Coomes, "I was much impressed with its great advantages as a winter resort for persons suffering with pulmonary affections, and with the charming features of its climate and scenery, There is an impression with many who have never visited this peculiar portion of the continent, that it is a low, damp country, mostly covered with water, but the visitor finds instead lands as fair and dry as those of Kentucky. It is true, that certain localities are made up of lowlands, interspersed with small lakes, and sluggish rivers and creeks. The lands of Florida may be divided into what are known as high pine lands, high hammock lands, low pine lands, low hammock lands, and swamp lands. The last named three varieties are to be scrupulously avoided by consumptives. It is a well-known fact that there are unhealthy localities in almost every State of the Union, and Florida is not without them. These we would expect to find along the St. John's River, and in marshy districts." The above statements and opinions of Dr. Coomes, are so true and sensible, that I quote them to adopt them as my own. He who does not realize that there are great differences in healthfulness, and suitableness to the requirements of invalids, in a State with such an extensive area and varying topographical conditions as Florida, is inexcusably ignorant.

It is quite forty years since, as a boy, I made my home in Florida. Fully three-fourths of that time I have been actively engaged in the study and practice of medicine—at Tallahassee, Key West, Fernandina, Jacksonville and Ocala. It is my misfortune, or fault, if I have not an intelligent idea of the topography, diseases, and climate of the State. Upon the assumption, if you please, of knowledge derived from study, observation and experience, I must, if possible, dissuade physicians from advising their patients and invalids to go to either coast, *but especially the Atlantic.* The current of cold water which, starting from the Arctic Ocean and and passing through Davis's Strait is forced by the gulf stream against the Atlantic shore of the North American Continent to the southern extremity of the peninsula of Florida, chills the moisture-laden east wind which prevails on that coast, and renders it blighting in its effect upon invalids. To a large class of cases—those with feeble digestive and aspirative powers, who consequently make heat slowly and imperfectly, the Atlantic coast is positively obnoxious.

On the other hand, excess of moisture in the atmosphere with an elevated temperature is hurtful, because evaporation is retarded, and perspiration, which in a moderately dry air would escape insensibly, accumulates upon the surface of the body as sweat, increasing discomfort and producing lassitude and debility. Besides, "a high thermal range, more especially if associated with a moist atmosphere, interferes with physical exercise, and in this respect is injurious. Hence, a climate like that of Nassau or Cuba is objectionable as a resort for pulmonary invalids." (Prof. Levis).

During my residence at Key West, as surgeon of the Marine-Hospital, I personally experienced the force of Prof. Levis's objections to the climate of Nassau and Cuba, in the similar climate of the Key. Like the fabled vampire bat, that delightful but treacherous climate sucks the life-blood, whilst the genial trade wind fans and lulls into fancied, but false security. It is for those reasons that I would advise against sending patients, except the small class who require a warm, moist, sedative climate, to the Gulf coast, particularly to the southern portion of the peninsula.

A moderately warm, dry, and bracing climate, with plenty of sunshine, and few sudden and great atmospheric changes, is especially adapted to consumption in its earlier stages, to catarrh, chronic bronchitis, chronic pneumonia, rheumatism, renal diseases, and some cases of asthma. A warm, moist, and sedative climate is better adapted to cases of advanced phthisis.

Fifteen years ago (1870) whilst residing in Jacksonville, my attention was called to the peculiar excellence of the climate of the central portion of the peninsula by Prof. John T. Metcalfe, of New York, who, as a Lieutenant of the United States Army, on the staff of Gen. Jessup, acquired personal knowledge of the subject during the Seminole war; and he advised me to locate and establish a sanitarium there. At that time, and for more than ten years after, there being no railroads into the interior, access was difficult for the robust and impossible for the feeble. Bearing in mind the advice of Dr. Metcalfe, and having the impression made by him deepened into conviction by personal investigation, I came to Ocala four years ago, railroads having meanwhile reached this point.

Leesburg, Lake County, Florida.

(INCORPORATED 1873.)

Leesburg occupies the geographical centre of the Florida peninsula and is the financial and trading centre of the richest county in South Florida.

Leesburg stands on an elevated peninsula between Lake Griffin and Lake Harris, daily traversed by steamers, and two of the largest and loveliest bodies of water in the State.

Leesburg is situated at the intersection of the great railway systems, the Florida Railway & Navigation and the Florida Southern Railway.

Leesburg is within two hours communication by rail or steamer with 24 flourishing towns and villages, all more or less tributary to her.

Leesburg derives her trade from nearly 150 miles of lake and 75 miles of railway territory.

Leesburg has within a three-mile radius, 1,230 acres in orange groves, containing 120,000 trees worth a million dollars and producing annually 60,000 boxes of fruit.

Leesburg precinct (6 miles square) has a population of 3,000; the town a population of 1,200.

Leesburg has the State College (brick) of the Florida Conference, M. E. Church, S., and other schools; 4 churches, 2 brick blocks, 2 banks, 5 hotels, 2 boarding-houses, 2 bakeries and restaurants, 2 first-class newspapers (*The Leesburg Commercial* and *The Weekly Leesburger*) and printing establishment, 1 large hall, livery stable, ice factory (making the purest ice in the State); an orange marmalade and jelly factory, bottling works, 1 large general merchandise store, 6 grocery stores, 1 hay and grain, 3 drug stores, 2 dry goods, 2 hardware and furniture, 1 boot and shoe store, 2 jewelry and silverware, 2 fruit stores, a Board of Trade, a steam fire engine and fire company, a military company, masonic and other lodges.

Leesburg offers to the pleasure seeker the finest orange groves, the most beautiful lake scenery and the best boating and fishing in the State.

During the last six months we have gained another newspaper, new buildings, and have secured for Leesburg the establishment of the Florida Produce M'f'g Co., a concern now busily engaged in the manufacture of orange marmalade and wine, jellies, essences, liquors, perfumes, etc. We have room for many more like it. Its reason for selecting Leesburg will also induce other manufacturing enterprises to choose the same location. We have drainage schemes on foot, assuring immense results in proportion to expenditure, which we commend to the investigation of capitalists. A railroad has been chartered and needs capital for its construction, to throw its arms around Lakes Harris and Griffin, passing through and directly connecting all the settlements bordering on their shores. In connection with this delivery railroad it is desired to establish large packing houses and cold storage warehouses at Leesburg. We want capitalists to examine these and many other opportunities that we can show them. We want the settler, the merchant, the manufacturer, the investor, large and small, to come and see our town and territory. We specially invite the attention of capitalists to this location for a large hotel. We have five hotels and boarding-houses, and can accommodate large numbers of visitors, but none of them are so constructed or conducted as to be strictly first-class, with all the luxuries and conveniences demanded by wealthy people.

A Large Lot in the Centre of the Town of Leesburg is Offered Free

to any capitalist who will build such a hotel as we require. Six thousand dollars cash has been refused for the lot. This offer will be liberally adapted to meet the ideas of any investor. No point in the State can compare with Leesburg as a centre for delightful excursions and beautiful scenery. The few monied men who have found us out are enriching themselves and us, but we want more to quicken the development of our vast natural resources.

The Secretary of the Board of Trade will cheerfully furnish more detailed information.

K. R. STREATFIELD, President. F. H. WOODHOUSE, Secretary. SERGE MALYVAN, Manager.

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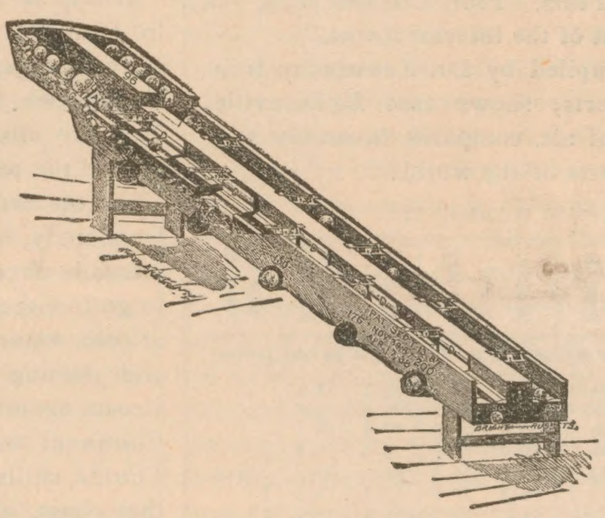

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CITRUS COUNTY.

Is located between the parallels 28 and 29, on the western side of the peninsula of Florida, about half way between Cedar Keys and Tampa. It is the northern end of what was once Hernando County It contains about 22 townships and about 3,000 inhabitants. Its coast is indented with many bays and inlets, and embraces many islands, hence, is par excellence, the best for oysters, fish and sea-side villas. It is bound on the north and east by the Withlacoochee River. Is noted for its rich hammocks and wild orange groves. On the eastern side lies the Charla Apopka Lake, 18 miles long, having on the western side of the lake, much rich land peculiarly suitable for the growth of semi-tropical fruits. The great body of the land is high rolling pine land free from miasma. Much of this land is valuable farming land and is covered with the long-leafed pine. It is a new county but already notorious throughout the State and Nation for the push and public spirit of its citizens. At present Mannfield is the county site, but an election will be held during this year, for the permanent location of the Court House.

Mannfield Is the Highland town, and will challenge the world for healthfulness. No physician, good school-house and church, no saloon, and a law-abiding people. About equi-distant from Charla Apopka Lake and the Gulf of Mexico. Has mail connections with all parts of the county, and stands a fair chance for the permanent location county site.

Fairmount. Four miles south-east of Crystal River, good church, two stores, saw mill and a thrifty people, principally Northerners. Three miles from railroad.

Crystal River, At the head of river of same name, is eight miles from Gulf coast, noted for the Cedar mills, magnificent springs, fish, oysters and game. It has several stores and railroad connections.

Citronelle and Red Level. Noted for excellent farming lands. Railroad runs through them. Self-sustaining population.

Homosassa. Famous as the ante-bellum home of Senator Yulee. Was once the lair of Tiger Tail, the celebrated Indian chieftain. Ivy covered ruins, wild hammocks, springs, river, and abundance of oysters, fish and game, make it the sportman's Paradise. It is the terminus of the Silver Springs, Ocala & Gulf Railroad. Has fine hotel and numerous attractions.

Oakdale, On the high land, six miles east from Homosassa; has store and post-office; good class of citizens, chiefly from Northern States.

Rosehill and Stage Pond Are in the heart of splendid farming lands, on the central southern boundary.

New Hope Lies on the Withlacoochee River, has much fine hammock and pine land suitable for farming and fruit growing.

Cove Bend Lies between Lake Charla Apopka and the Withlacoochee River, and is one of the finest sections for fruit growing in the State. Many thrifty groves and a prosperous people.

Floral City Is far-famed for its Duval Island and magnificent hammocks, and fruit bearing groves. Has a hotel and several stores, church and school-house. Three steamboats ply between this place and Panasoffkee down the river and Pemberton Ferry up the river.

Tompkinsville and Hernando Lie on the west side of the Charla Apopka Lake, and has many attractions and advantages for the farmer, merchant or fruit grower. Her lands cannot be excelled anywhere in the State.

Dunnellon. On the Withlacoochee River, and railroad, has much fine land contiguous.

Orleans In the centre embraces magnificent pine lands, and is settled by an educated and refined people. Will have a railroad soon.

Lecanto Is as near the centre of the county as Orleans and is not surpassed by any section for fine land and hospitable, self-sustaining people, and like several other aspirants, sets up good claims for county site.

Altogether, no part of the State presents more advantages that Citrus County. THE CITRUS COUNTY STAR, the official paper of the county, is published at Mannfield, can answer all questions.

At that date hotel accommodations were inferior and insufficient throughout the central portion of peninsular Florida, and for that reason I could not consistently with a sense of duty to patrons, and, therefore, would not persuade invalids to come notwithstanding the great advantages which nature, with liberal hand, has bestowed upon these sections. The difficulty no longer exists. There is abundant accommodation (the whole section being studded with elegant hotels and comfortable boarding-houses). Now, I feel it to be my duty to call the attention of the profession and of invalids to the peculiar climatic advantages which this section affords.

Observations made by surgeons of the United States Army during the Seminole war, at Fort King, now Ocala (and these facts of meteorology apply as well to all the central counties of Florida), show the following facts: Mean annual temperature is 70°, mean winter temperature 58.41°, and for five months, beginning with November, 60.55°.

The mean annual rainfall is 40 inches. Of this, 21.69 fall in the three months of summer, and for the five months beginning with November, the mean is 6.21 inches.

The late Dr. Forry, surgeon of the United States Army, distinguished as a physician and in natural science, says: "Whilst on the northern lakes the annual ratio of fair days is 117, on the coast of Florida it is 250, and at Fort King it is 309." Can any array of statistics be more impressive?

"Malaria is the subject which enters into the description of all southern climes, and we unhesitatingly assert that Florida has been misrepresented in this respect. I speak from personal observation, experience, and extended inquiry, and I assert that the opinion entertained with regard to the prevalence of malaria during the cold months, is unfounded." I have quoted the foregoing statements of Dr. Kenworthy to reinforce them, if it were necessary, by my own knowledge derived from observation and experience, running through quite forty years of intimate acquaintance with the sanitary history of Florida. From November to June, inclusive, a visitor is as safe from attacks of malarial disease in Florida as in the Adirondacks.

Blue Springs and Withlacoochee River.

THE Blue River (Las Aguas Azul), called the Wekiwa by the Seminole Indians, but by natives called Blue Springs, is one of the grandest streams in the South, and to realize its attractiveness and natural advantages it must be seen. It is fed entirely by countless springs, many of them named and of special and varied attractiveness, and flows, a broad river from its head, giving a navigable depth in no place less than four feet, while Alice Spring, situated in the lovely Tropical Park of Dunnellon, is sixty-three feet in depth. It is unaffected by rains, and its waters remain at all times of the same temperature and crystally clear. The scenery is indescribably grand. From the Park set apart on the bluff, there is a magnificent view of the meeting of the crystal waters of the Wekiwa with the dark waters of the romantic Withlacoochee, resembling an emerald set in ebony, blending in harmony with the overhanging flora of the semi-tropics, in colors, while to the westward, from the same point of observation, a long and enchanting vista looks down the Withlacoochee, overshadowed by grand forest trees draped in long hanging moss resplendent with the silver and golden sheen of the setting sun. The shores of this beautiful stream afford delightful homes for the invalid, the tourist and pleasure seeker at all seasons. They differ from other somewhat similarly celebrated and charming streams of the State, in the respect that the shores and neighborhood of this are high, and the hills sloping up from the Blue River, throughout its extent, and rising at some points to an elevation of perhaps a hundred feet above the waters, furnish a great number of most desirable, elevated, fertile, and airy villa sites. Standing on these hills and looking down into these transparent waters, the angles of light and vision give to them that peculiar tint of peacock blue that has given its name to the stream.

You can stand upon the bank of the river, or sit in your boat, and look down into the colorless water, presenting the silver sands and the drab rocky formation of the bottom, with patches of tall, gently waving grasses resembling wheat, coral plant and ferns, and the herbaceous growths at depths of from four to sixty-three feet, as plainly to view as if it were all in a miniature aquarium.

Sitting beneath the shade of the palmettoes, magnolias and the bay trees, one whiles away the time looking down, down into the wonders of the deep, beholding the bubbling springs throwing up columns of comminuted shells, which spread out and fall to the bottom to again ascend; grottoes of rectangular rocks leaning one against the other in fantastic shapes, and caves, out of the darkness of which countless fish come and go, and his enthusiasm overpowers him, and he longs for the ability to translate to canvas the grandeur of nature's work.

These rivers abound with fish in great variety and numbers. The fresh and salt water fish mingle here, the latter running up from the Gulf to sport and feed in these fine waters. The bass or Southern trout, the mullet and sheepshead and many others are found here and caught with ease, and their firm, white flesh is delicious food at all seasons.

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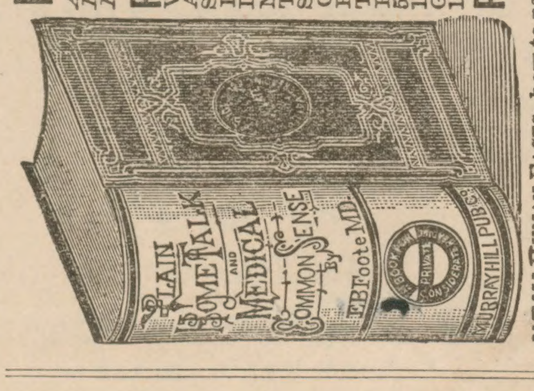

NEW HUMAN FACES; how to read character, by Dr. J. Simms, 250 pages, 225 Illustrations, 50 cents. Dr. Foote's Hand Book of Health Hints and Ready Recipes, 128 page pamphlet, 25 cents. PUB MEDICAL SENSE and Nonsense. Try the Laugh Cure, 96 pages, 50 Illustrations, 10 cents. GYNECOLOGY, or Diseases of Women, 48 pages, $10 worth of doctors advice for 10 cents. All four of these paper cover books with Popular Edition of "Plain Home Talk" for $2.00.

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ABANDON snow and sleet, and come to sunny and breezy Florida.

FOR valuable information relating to Florida consult "The Pathfinder."

COME to the Exposition and see the products of Semi-Tropical and Tropical Florida. Come and see the products of the Sisterhood of Counties.

DR. EDWARD EVERETT HALE, the great preacher and author, writes personally to the president of the Exposition that he longs for the bright sunshine of Florida.

DON'T buy property and settle until you have visited the Semi-Tropical Exposition, and there see the products of the various counties.

ONLY a short distance from the Semi-Tropical Exposition to Orange Lake, and see the largest orange groves in the world and beautiful residences.

LAKE WEIR, only a short distance from the Semi-Tropical Exposition, the queen of Florida lakes, and where is located the Chautauqua.

We draw attention to the advertisement of the *New York Purchasing Agency*. They are a reliable firm and will act in good faith.

IT is reasonable to suppose yellow fever will not visit Florida again for many years and probably never, if we get a vigilant State Board of Health.

"THE FLORIDA SEMI-TROPICAL NEWS" endeavors to show no sectional partiality, but to embrace all the scope of country for which the Exposition is intended.

HIGH rolling hills, beautiful hammocks, natural orange groves, clear lakes, deep rivers, wonderful springs, prosperous towns, all adjacent to the Exposition.

"THE PATHFINDER" will give you routes, distances and all the attractions of Florida. Every tourist and immigrant should have one.

FLORIDA will become the winter home and sanitarium of the blooded horse. Next season the Semi-Tropical Exposition management will make one of the finest racecourses in the U. S.

DR. T. STERRY HUNT, the great geologist and physical philosopher, says the climate of Florida is the finest in the world. He writes the president of the Exposition that he will come this winter and remain until late spring.

FLORIDA INVESTMENTS.

In 1869 I sold 54,500 acres of Florida lands. *My specialty* is BARGAINS, in everything. As manager for years of the Gulf Coast Land Co., Agent for Disston, Railway, Government and other lands, also, all kinds of groves, hotels, city and town property, saw mills, stock ranches, vegetable and fruit farms and MILLIONS of acres of wild pine, hammock and timber lands adapted to all purposes, from $1 to $2.50 per acre, and up, I can offer UNEXCELLED inducements in the various counties, to every class of investors and settlers. Locations all healthy.

SPECIAL.—*Four paying Hotels* to rent and sell: one 227 *rooms;* brick; A 1 chance; furnished.

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